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THE TIMES

40p

No. 65,481

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1996

ELIZABETH'S STORY

- The final part of our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen
- Royal childhoods: the rootless Prince and the self-disciplined Princess

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Two flights for the price of one

Virgin Atlantic offer Bonus token, P14

Alive and kicking

The cutthroat world of the cheerleader

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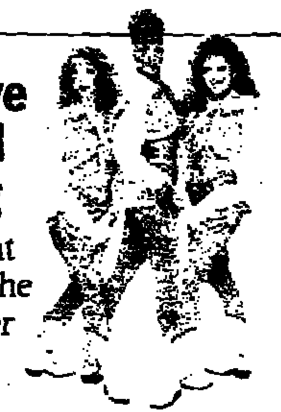

Have dog, will travel

Simon Jenkins on Britain's ludicrous quarantine laws

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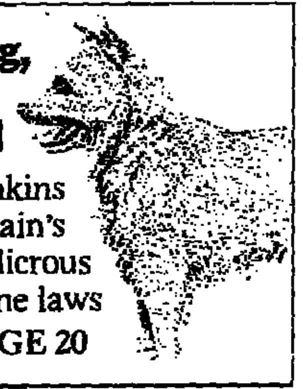

Maxwell brothers are cleared

Tears and hugs greet verdict in £30m case

By Jon Ashworth, Carol Midgley and Michael Horsnell

THE two youngest sons of the media tycoon Robert Maxwell were cleared yesterday of a £122 million conspiracy to defraud company pensioners in a dramatic finish to an eight-month trial which could spell the end of the Serious Fraud Office.

After a record 12-day retirement by the jury, Kevin and Ian Maxwell celebrated their unanimous acquittal with tears and hugs, before shaking the hands of the seven women and five men who gave them their freedom.

A third defendent, Larry Trachtenberg, 42, an American former lecturer on international relations at the London School of Economics who gave up his academic career to to become an adviser to Robert Maxwell, was also cleared of all charges.

The country's most expensive case is believed to have cost £30 million, including the 131-day trial which began on May 31 last year and the SFO investigation.

Kevin, 36, embraced his 39-year-old brother when they appeared on the steps of the Old Bailey annexe where their trial had been held.

Speaking publicly for the first time since their arrest in 1992, Kevin said: "I gave evidence in this trial over a period of 21 days and in his summing-up the judge said he thought no jury had had a better opportunity of assessing the honesty of the witness than in my case.

"Anyone who wishes to discover my attitude to the events leading to the collapse of my father's group has only to read a transcript of my evidence. I have nothing to add to it."

Ian said: "I have much in my heart that I will keep for myself and my family. I would like also to pay tribute to that family and to my lawyers who have been a constant source of strength and pride to me as has my brother. I trusted him then as I trust him now. I am very pleased that we are standing here together to be able to say this to you."

An emotional Laura Maxwell, Ian's wife and a former model, rushed across the courtroom to embrace both brothers.

Kevin's wife Pandora, who is five months pregnant with her sixth child, said from the family home in Moulsford, Oxon, after collecting the children from school: "We are all as you can imagine, very relieved indeed. The family have kept me going. I have never sunk into the depths of despair because that wouldn't have helped Kevin."

John Warnford-Davis, Pandora's father, made a mobile telephone call to her from the court and was warned by officials about using it.

Betty Maxwell, Robert Maxwell's widow, was not in court. She had provided financial assistance and gave evidence on behalf of her sons.

The two brothers, who were both on legal aid, gave thumbs-up signs to the waiting media but neither would comment on whether the verdicts vindicated their father. They spent two hours in their solicitors' chambers and then fought their way through waiting photographers to a waiting Land Rover. Ian Maxwell said: "I am going to take it one day at a time. The champagne stays on ice. Laura has been wonderful. She has stood by me everyday."

The jubilant family later gathered for a private celebration. After the courtroom gasps which greeted their acquittal, Alan Suckling QC, who led the prosecution, asked Lord Justice Phillips for a seven-day adjournment to consider future prosecutions.

But amid growing expectation that the SFO would not proceed with eight outstanding charges against the Maxwells and four other men, Alun Jones QC, for Kevin Maxwell, said it would be "oppressive" to do so and cause stress and anxiety. He said: "No jury has ever had a better opportunity to judge a defendant's honesty than in this case." A decision will be taken within the next week.

George Staple, the belea-

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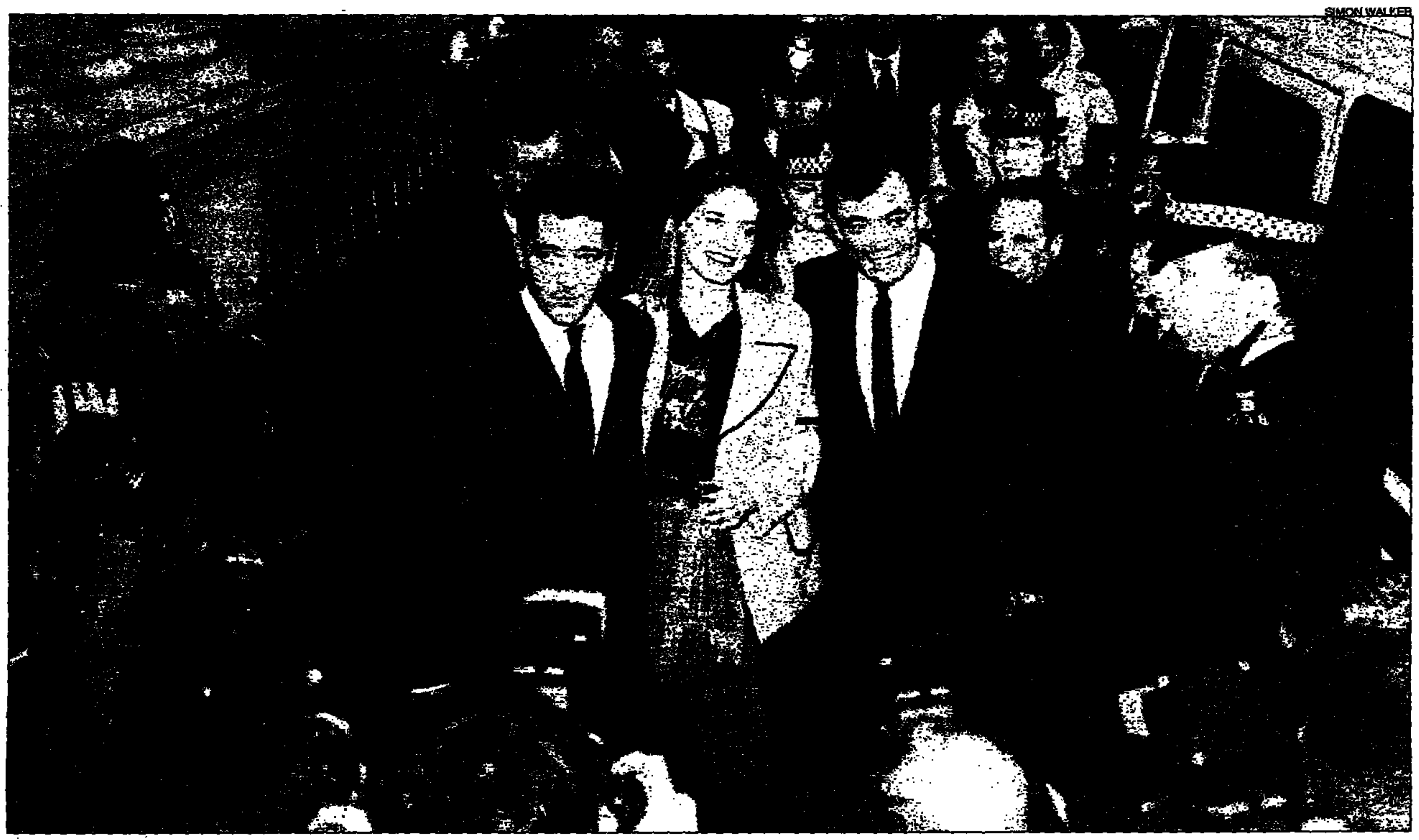
SIMON WALKER



Taste of freedom: Ian and Kevin Maxwell, with Ian's wife Laura, leave court after their 121-day trial. The Maxwells held a family party last night to celebrate the verdict

Fraud office is in the dock again

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

THERE were calls last night for dramatic changes in the way the Serious Fraud Office operates.

Senior City figures and former SFO officers said that they have watched in disbelief as trial after costly trial has foundered. Some have dubbed the organisation the Serious *Farce* Office.

The SFO started investigating Maxwell's business affairs less than a month after Robert Maxwell disappeared on November 5 1991. The Maxwell trial is estimated to have cost £30 million and the reputation of the SFO was resting on a successful prosecution.

Yesterday's result follows similar high profile "failures", such as the loss of the Brent Walker and Blue Arrow cases and including the sentencing of Roger Levitt to community service after an investigation into the £58 million collapse of the Levitt Group.

This time, however, the SFO believed it had learnt its lesson. The number of charges was kept to a minimum, whittled down from 10 to just two in order to present a straightforward case to the jury.

Last night there were calls for the abolition of the current trial by jury and its replacement by a panel of legal experts better able to understand the complexities of such detailed fraud trials. It is now expected that a government-sponsored report will be commissioned to consider getting rid of the jury system in such cases.

David Lee, a former SFO assistant director who now runs a forensic accounting company, said: "It may be that the jury believed that these were technical offences.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Commons defeat for daylight Bill

Plans to move British clocks an hour forward to be in line with Europe were defeated yesterday in the Commons. Time ran out for John Butterfill's plans when Scottish Office Ministers lined up with Scottish nationalists, northern Labour MPs and Tory Euro-sceptics to wreck the Bill........**Page 10**

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Ferry hijackers surrender to Turks

From Anthony Loyd at Anadolu Feneri

THE armed Chechen sympathisers holding 170 hostages aboard the Turkish ferry *Avrasya* surrendered peacefully to security forces last night, after contacting lawyers from the vessel.

The hijackers were taken off the ship by coastguards as darkness fell, after they had made a final attempt to avoid a Turkish naval blockade at the mouth of the Bosphorus.

The four-day ordeal ended without bloodshed, except for an injured security guard, in contrast to the heavy-handed assault on the village of Pervomaiskoye, in southern Russia. The hijackers threw their weapons into the Black Sea as the nightmare ended for their captives.

"There was no bargaining," said Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister. "We told them there was no way they could get away with this kind of thing."

Shortly before the crisis ended, an unidentified gunman told the ATV network: "We have reached our goal. We are ending this action."

The Turkish authorities could bring charges of abduction or terrorism against the hijackers, who may face up to 11 years in jail.

The incident was brought to an end as a result of the intervention of Semsettin Yusuf, the self-styled Chechen foreign minister, who became directly involved in talks on behalf of the Turks. He is reported to have assured them that Turkey was an ally of Chechenia, and that any continuation of their action would endanger the relationship.

The eight hostage-takers, Turkish nationals of Abkhazian and Tartar origin led by Muhammed Tokcan, had earlier released eight hostages as a gesture of goodwill while the ferry was anchored below Anadolu Feneri, the lighthouse on the Asian side of the mouth of the Bosphorus. Those freed included two women, a child and the security guard. He was wounded on Tuesday when the gunmen took over the ferry at Trabzon, 270 miles east of Istanbul.

It was unclear whether the Turkish authorities had promised the men leniency. Negotiators had earlier spoken of prison terms varying in length between eight months and ten years. However, any such clemency would infuriate the Russians, whose handling of the Chechen crisis sparked the hostage-taking.

Fight for hostages, page 12

Prisoners freed before deadline

A total of 225 Serb and Muslim prisoners were released at Sarajevo airport yesterday, hours before a Dayton peace accord deadline, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Pierre Gautier, a Red Cross official, said the prisoners from the two sides were freed simultaneously.

Bosnia deadline, page 16

South Africa win

South Africa went 5-1 up in the seven-match cricket series with a 14-run win in the sixth limited-overs match against England. South Africa's 129 was their lowest score in one-day internationals.... **Page 48**

Major says social chapter is immoral

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR signalled yesterday that he will use the social chapter as one of his main political weapons in the run-up to the general election.

The Prime Minister, who delighted Euro-sceptics earlier this week by agreeing to a White Paper on Europe, sought to underline the differences with Labour by denouncing the chapter, which is backed by Tony Blair, as "immoral".

He used a speech in Biriminugahm to regain the intitiative after renewed speculation of a new plot to remove him. He used some of his strongest language yet to criticise interference by Brussels in workers' rights and gave a warning of the future impact of more regulations on employment and social issues.

But the Labour leader dismissed Mr Major's attack as "exaggerated, violent and ludicrous."

Mr Blair said that the social chapter had only proposed two legal changes, one on employees' rights and one on parental leave.

Immoral tax, page 10

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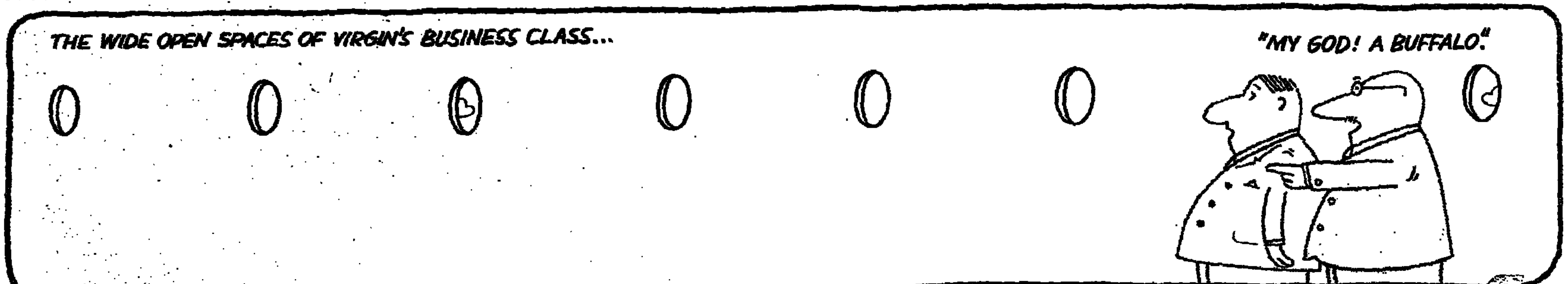

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Evidence at sons' trial confirms Maxwell's transformation from war hero to ogre

Dictator of Holborn continues to hold sway from beyond the grave

By Jon Ashworth

THE FATHER

EVEN in death, Robert Maxwell could not be silenced. His ghost stalked the courtroom in Chancery Lane as witness after witness spoke of ceaseless tyranny at the Mirror Group's Holborn headquarters. Maxwell's presence could be sensed at every step of the trial, from documents bearing his signature, flashed up on the courtroom screen, to accounts of his last moments on *Lady Ghislaine*, his luxury motoryacht.

Jurors were drawn into the world of a dictator and megalomaniac who bullied his children and forced directors and bankers to bow to his every demand. He was "an investment manager of one" who signed away millions with one hand, then casually dispensed authorising documents with the other.

Maxwell's lifestyle epitomised the excess of the 1980s. Office workers in Holborn grew used to the sound of his Squirrel helicopter landing on the roof of Maxwell House. Two Gulfstream executive jets were on hand for longer trips and there was a Rolls-Royce for more mundane journeys.

Wealth did not always marry with good taste. Maxwell once ordered his chauffeur to stop outside a fish and chip shop and proceeded to eat the impromptu meal in the comfort of his leather-clad seat. He dressed in turban and slippers at a party thrown by the billionaire US publisher Malcolm Forbes and was famously photographed on his yacht in a T-shirt bearing the slogan "Are We Rich Yet?" His life was insured for £20 million.

Maxwell's early days had a touch of Ernest Hemingway. Born Ian Ludvik Hoch to Jewish parents in Czechoslovakia in 1923, he fought for the Allies after the Normandy landings, using the name Leslie du Maurier, taken from a brand of cigarettes. Hailed for his skills as a marksman, he was awarded the Military Cross for storming an enemy emplacement under fire. A senior officer suggested the name Robert Maxwell, and the *transformation* was complete.

It was in the liberated Paris that he met Betty Meynard, soon to become his wife. Maxwell told her of his dream of becoming a British MP and went on to realise his ambition with mixed success, taking his place on the backbenches under Harold Wilson — and embarrassing everyone with a rambling opening speech. Maxwell's wealth and rumbustiousness never sat comfortably with the subtle ways of the House.

Business brought success but no less controversy. He attracted the lasting hatred of Harold Macmillan and others over the collapse of Simpkin Marshall, which acted as an intermediary between publishers and bookshops. "Captain" Maxwell, as he liked to be known, conceded that he had come down flat, but was on the up again. The Bouncing Czech was born. By the time of his death, the Maxwell empire embraced everything from Mirror Group Newspapers and *The European*, to Berlitz language courses.

Such was Maxwell's regime of fear — writs were routinely issued — that the transformation from war hero to ogre became apparent only after his death. The jurors at the trial of his sons were told how he would routinely humiliate senior managers and staff — family included — despite flashes of generosity. Kevin, giving evidence, spoke of his father's bullying streak and verbal dressings down. Friends would tell how silence was demanded when Maxwell watched television at home.

The trial provided some answers to the most intriguing question of all — what happened to Robert Maxwell in the early hours of November 5, 1991? Did he run from his cabin, gasping for air, and plunge overboard after suffering a heart attack? Did he commit suicide, realising his empire was on the brink of collapse? Or was he assassinated by Mossad agents over his role in shadowy Israeli dealings?

Kevin Maxwell provided a more down-to-earth explanation: his father probably fell overboard while urinating. Maxwell was a light sleeper, who would wake often, and found it convenient to relieve himself over the side. The spot he favoured was guarded by a thin piece of wire and was "not the safest part of the vessel".

An autopsy found that Maxwell's left shoulder had been subject to "immense and extraordinary strain", suggesting he had grabbed at the rail as he fell but had been dragged down by his weight. The Israeli pathologist concluded that suicide was unlikely, adding: "It is more likely that he fell into the sea either as a result of accident or homicide." Another medical witness suggested the death was consistent with a syndrome in which people faint during or after urinating.

The collapse of the Maxwell empire prompted changes in pension legislation and sent a ripple of fear through British boardrooms. Never again, it was said, would one man be allowed to dominate a business empire through tyranny and fear. The trial may be over, but Maxwell's spectre lingers on.

Maxwell, known then as Leslie du Maurier, receiving the Military Cross from Montgomery

The publisher, dubbed "an investment manager of one", in his office at Maxwell House

Tycoon's grave attracts only the angry

From Ross Dunn
in Jerusalem

AT THE Jewish Cemetery overlooking the valley where God will judge humanity, visitors are already pronouncing judgment on Robert Maxwell. Shattered glass lies around his tombstone, a frequent target for bottles thrown by those angry at having lost money in the collapse of the Maxwell empire.

"I have to clean the broken bottles," said Abed Ziad, the 70-year-old Arab gravedigger and cemetery caretaker. "I catch people. I tell them, 'Please don't do it'. I ask them why they do it."

While the vandals have made the pilgrimage, few friends or relatives have been to the grave near the top of the Mount of Olives, facing Jerusalem's old city, for some time. It is customary for Jews to place a small stone when visiting a grave. None has been placed recently on top of Maxwell's tombstone.

A woman, who identified herself as Maxwell's sister, was the last person seen by Mr Ziad practising this custom at the graveside. "It was about three months ago. She placed some stones there and asked me for a candle which she also placed on top. She did not speak Hebrew. I think she was from London."

Mr Ziad knows the site well, not only because tourists sometimes ask for it. It is the location of perhaps the biggest grave he has had to dig in the cemetery. "Big man, very fat," he said of the shrouded corpse placed in the ground in November 1991 in what amounted to a full state funeral attended by Yitshak Shamir, then the Israeli Prime Minister, and most of his ministers.

Tears and hugs as the Maxwells are cleared

Continued from page 1
guered director of the SFO, said that the Maxwell verdicts will not damage the organisation. He said: "It was a prosecution that had to be brought. We must respect the jury's decision. I would not see it as a waste of money."

Mr Staples said a very large sum of money had gone missing and this had to be thoroughly investigated. "We had to bring to it very considerable resources to do that. I believe that in this case the system has worked as it was designed to work.

"We are supposed to be neither pleased nor disappointed at the outcome of these cases. We simply have to ensure that the evidence is put before the court and the defendants receive a fair trial. That has happened in this case. To that extent the system has worked as it should do."

Immediate demands from MPs for a statement from the Attorney-General Sir Nicholas Lyall followed the verdicts.

Paul Boateng, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said: "This is a grave and potentially fatal setback for the SFO that calls into question the future of that institution. There must now be a serious question mark as to whether a fundamantal overhaul should now take place in the process of bringing to justice those resppnsible for City fraud."

Alex Carlile QC, the Liberal Democrat, said Sir Nicholas should explain "how the disastrous decision to prosecute them, at enormous public expense, was taken".

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, said: "The verdict involves a criticism of the Serious Fraud Office in taking this case up. Although the prosecution may have been launched in good faith nevertheless the verdict of the jury shows the prosecution was mistaken. Our system of trial by jury has been vindicated even in a case taken up by the SFO."

Kevin Maxwell was alleged to have conspired to swindle Mirror Group and other pensioners out of shares worth more than £100 million to shore up imperilled companies owned by his father.

After Robert Maxwell died off the Canary Islands in November 1991, Kevin and Ian were alleged with others to have used another £22 million of pension fund assets in an effort to pay pressing debts and save the "desperate" group from collapse.

Jurors accepted Kevin's claim that his father had shown him a fax stating that shares worth £100 million had been properly transferred from the pension funds to the private Maxwell companies.

The judge, in his summing up, said it was for the jury to decide whether Kevin was telling the truth. If they believed his claim, then he had to be found not guilty of fraud.

The brothers counted on the support of the banks but rumours that their father had committed suicide sent the shares into a tailspin, seriously undermining bank loans. The expectation that a mysterious Middle Eastern "white knight" would inject up to £400 million into the companies never materialised.

Jean Baddeley, Robert Maxwell's former aide who has employed both brothers since their arrests in 1991 as consultants at her Mayfair-based business Westbourne Communications, was in the public gallery.

She said: "I was always convinced of their innocence, justice has been done. Now we can get back to the land of the living."

Civil cases against the Maxwell brothers to try to claim back millions of pounds may be affected by the jury's not guilty verdicts, it was claimed.

Solicitor John Fordham, whose firm represents 30,000 Mirror pensioners, has so far successfully clawed back £276 million from the missing £450 million fortune plundered from Robert Maxwell's companies.

Fraud Office under fire

Continued from page 1
It again calls into question whether there should be an expert panel in major fraud trials rather than a jury."

John Wood, founder director of the SFO, recently said: "We need to look again at the jury — not necessarily to do away with it, but to see whether we should go back to the special jury, abolished many years ago."

SFO officers were said to be "shocked and gutted" by the verdict, having hoped for at least one conviction.

Last year the Davie report to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, recommended that the SFO be kept as an independent organisation and be expanded to take over some of the work of the Crown Prosecution Service.

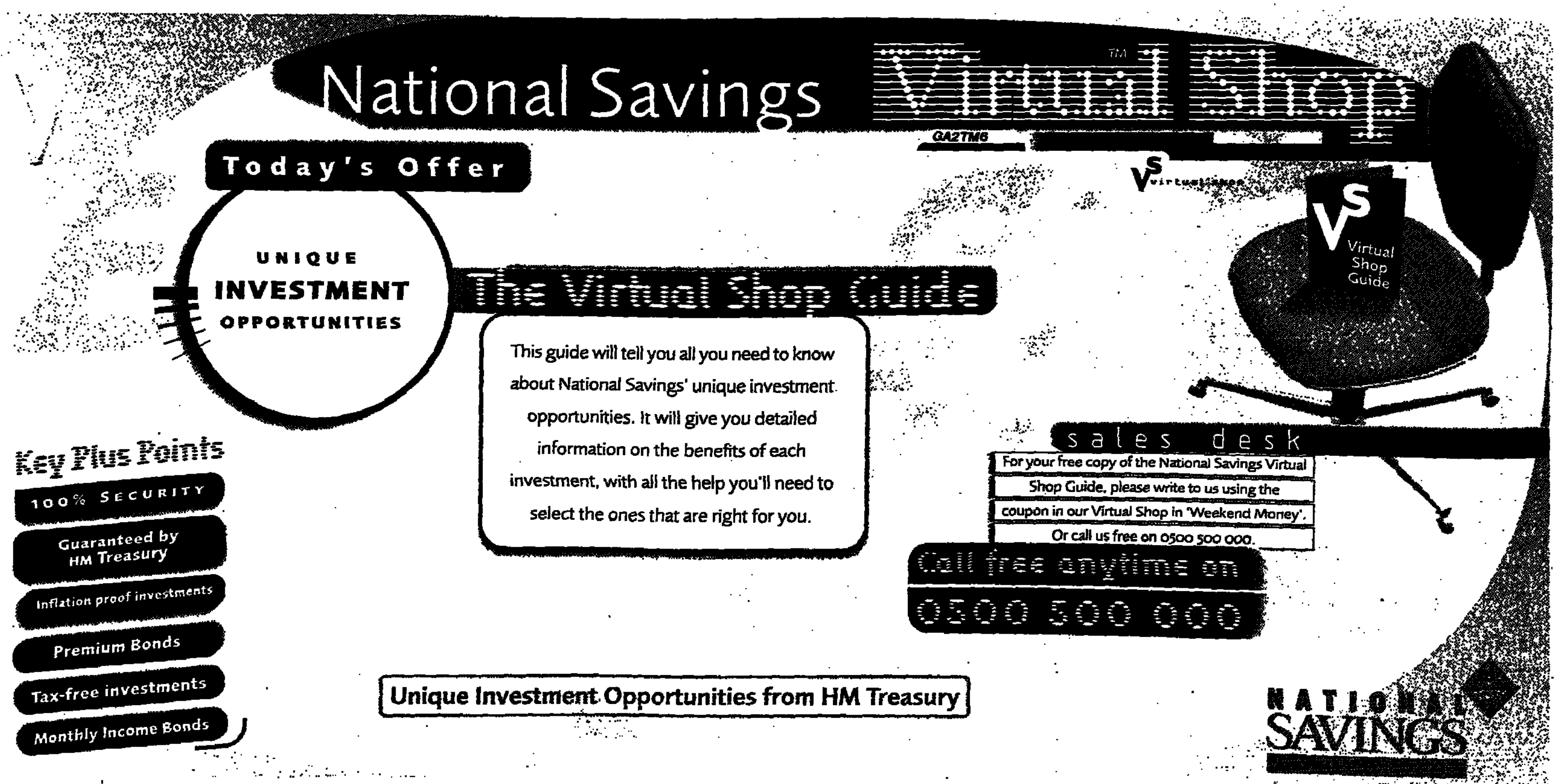
The SFO was created after the Roskill committee report in 1986 called for a "single, unified organisation responsible for all the functions of detection, investigation and prosecution of serious fraud." At a time of mounting City scandals, the proposal won strong support. The Criminal Justice Act of the following year paved the way for its formation in 1988.

After its failures the agency has been to great lengths to defend its record. Excluding the Maxwell defendants, it claims a conviction rate in 143 cases brought by the SFO since 1988 to nearly 200 out of 321 defendants prosecuted.

The objective of the SFO was to tackle serious cases of fraud more effectively by bringing lawyers, accountants and police together in a special investigative team. It deals with cases involving more than £1 million and its work has included investigations into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Guinness, the Barlow Clowes and Blue Arrow affairs and, more recently, the Barings Bank collapse.

The SFO has a budget or around £18 million a year and around 140 permanent staff, mainly lawyers and accountants. Police officers are attached to the agency from their own forces for each investigation.

Under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act, SFO members can require individuals to answer questions or produce documents, on pain of prosecution. The SFO describes the powers as "invaluable for getting to the heart of complex frauds".



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Crown's failure to secure a conviction is likely to provoke demands for reform

Not-guilty verdicts put system back in the dock

Reports by Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

TRIAL BY JURY

THE dramatic acquittal of the Maxwells yesterday will fuel the debate among prosecution authorities over whether juries are capable of trying complex fraud trials.

It will also, at the very least, strengthen the case — backed by the Lord Chancellor but opposed by the Lord Chief Justice — for research into how juries carry out their task.

If any jury was expected to quash the growing belief that ordinary people should not try such trials, it was the Maxwell jury. The five men and seven women were chosen after an American-style procedure, unprecedented in this country, designed to pick the model jury for a lengthy fraud trial. Lord Justice Phillips won admiration from prosecution and defence alike for his trial management. It was ironic, therefore, that despite such efforts the Crown failed to secure any convictions.

But yesterday the Bar gave warning against condemning the jury system on the back of the acquittals. Christopher Sallon, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "If people argue that juries should be scrapped in fraud trials, they are really saying the Maxwells should have been convicted. I am very anxious that this should not be a prelude to judge the ability of juries in fraud trials. I think it vindicates the system. We have serious criminal charges, with penal consequences, and tried by members of the public with the evidence properly prepared by the Serious Fraud Office and properly presented. The judge, too, was of the highest calibre."

Lord Justice Phillips, 57, brought in a series of innovations to make the trial as manageable and comprehensible to jurors as possible. Richard Lissack, QC, one of the leading prosecuting counsel, said: "He has been the single greatest influence on the trial. His conduct has been faultless. What has been so remarkable has been his temperament — his patience and attention to detail, and his fairness to everyone: counsel, defendants, witnesses, the jury, the press."

Lord Justice Phillips: brought in new ideas

Known as a "Rolls-Royce" judge, Lord Justice Phillips won plaudits for his deft handling of the Barlow Clowes trial in 1991. From well before the start of the Maxwell trial, he adopted the new "hands-on" approach advocated by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, and by Lord Woolf, who is chairing an inquiry into civil justice.

In the pre-trial hearings he was "pro-active, not just a passenger", according to one lawyer, and was involved at every stage. He had the indictment reduced from ten charges to two — a manageable task for one trial.

The system of jury selection over two weeks involved sifting about 700 potential jurors down to 70 through the use of lengthy questionnaires and then orally questioning those on the shortlist.

The aim was to find people who would be able and willing to stay the course of a trial lasting several months. Account was taken of people who had holidays booked or problems with childcare. Potential jurors were asked their jobs, what papers they read, and what they had read about the Maxwells.

Once before, in the Kray brothers trial, juries were asked whether they had been influenced by press publicity, but this time extensive questionnaires were used. Potential jurors were asked, American-style, if they had heard of the accusations against the Maxwells and if they would be able to be dispassionate about them.

Two batches of 350 were given questionnaires. Their answers excluded 550 for a variety of reasons including ill health, personal and holiday booked. The replies of the other 150 were screened by judge and lawyers for both Crown and defence and put into one of three groups, A, B and C.

One quarter fell into C and were rejected on grounds of literacy and "in the interests of justice". Nearly three quarters went into B because answers were incomplete or ambiguous or inconsistent. They were questioned further personally by the judge, before lawyers. Just a handful went into A, with no apparent grounds for being excluded.

After the further questioning, further jurors were excluded: one seemed too keen, another seemed not to be truthful in not knowing anything about the Maxwell allegations. From the final shortlist, 12 were then drawn at random.

The judge also introduced a new court day of 9.30am to 1.30pm, with the afternoons reserved for legal argument. It meant jurors did not have to concentrate all day and saved them having to keep coming in and out of court while counsel discussed legal points in their absence. The judge also provided the jury with a summary of his 3½-day summing-up, although lawyers were critical of the refusal to allow juries to have daily transcripts of proceedings.

A keen advocate of new technology, the judge promoted the use of the computer system in court to the full. Prosecuting counsel provided a "road map" of all documents that they would call, down to the passage to be examined. These were then instantly produced on screen and displayed on all the monitors around the courtroom.

The courtroom itself was far cry from the traditional Crown Court. Light and airy, it was packed with desks and computers and resembled an open-plan office. There was no dock, and the defendants sat, American-style, with their lawyers.

Whatever the furore over the trial outcome, the judge has provided a blueprint for management of such trials in future. His abilities have already been acknowledged: mid-way through the trial, he was promoted to the Court of Appeal.

Not only does Lord Justice Phillips have a high reputation intellectually, he is well-liked. In a recent survey by *Legal Business* he was one of the three most popular judges with lawyers.

SIAN FRANCES

Ian Maxwell, centre, embraces his wife Laura and brother Kevin inside the court after their acquittal

'He is in court because he is his father's son'

THE DEFENCE

FROM the moment the jurors withdrew to consider their verdicts last week, the prosecution privately acknowledged the distinct possibility that the Maxwells would be cleared.

The crown team, led by Alan Suckling, QC, and Richard Lissack, QC, had deployed their case faultlessly; and they believed it to be a strong one. The trial had run smoothly and been managed with flair by Lord Justice Phillips.

But the defence, and Alun Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell in particular, had argued skilfully that Robert Maxwell's sons had not acted dishonestly; and nor, for that matter, had the late Maxwell.

For Robert Maxwell was effectively on trial with the other defendants: in a rare move, the late newspaper proprietor was named on the indictment as a co-defendant in the conspiracy to defraud. The logical conclusion, Mr Jones told the court, was that conviction of Kevin would involve conviction of his father; acquittal would imply his father was not guilty.

Mr Jones' approach was two-pronged: first, he did not seek to impute dishonesty to Robert Maxwell and distance his sons. On the contrary he defended him, insisting Robert Maxwell was innocent of any fraud in his handling of pension fund assets.

He said Robert Maxwell had believed he acted lawfully when he helped remove £100 million in assets from Maxwell pension funds to pay debts elsewhere. To that end, he argued his death was never suicide, but an accident. "We do not accept that Robert Maxwell killed himself," he said.

In a second line of argument, he maintained that even if Robert Maxwell was guilty of the dishonesty alleged — which Mr Jones accepted was "one real possibility" — then Kevin was not.

Similarly, Edmund Lawson, QC, for Ian Maxwell, told the jury: "Ian Maxwell finds himself in the metaphorical dock (there was no actual dock in the courtroom) not because of what he did, but because of who he is; a Maxwell and his father's son."

The sons, the court heard, were victims of their father, a "dominant and controlling force" whom they had believed and admired. They had simply followed his instructions, believing what he told them. Kevin, Mr Jones said, had accpeted the Scitex shares had been properly transferred to RMG "because his father had told him so."

Alun Jones QC: argued skilfully for the defence

One problem for the defence remained: Kevin Maxwell's lies, on his own admission, to bankers. Again, though, he said that he had done so "only with great reluctance on his father's angry instructions". He told the jury of the shame he felt at having agreed with the orders his father gave during a stormy session at which the publisher thumped the desk with his fist.

The question of truthfulness was at the heart of the trial. Lord Justice Phillips emphasised that the key factor was whether the jury believed Kevin Maxwell had lied in the witness box.

"Allegations of lying have featured very large in this trial," he said. The jury, he said, must compare truthfulness of any witness by comparing his evidence with other evidence available and contemporary documents.

Only the jury could decide whether Kevin Maxwell was telling the truth when he claimed his father told him that ownership of shares at the centre of the alleged pension funds fraud had been transferred to the private Maxwell companies. Yesterday they unequivocally did so.

Taxpayer must foot £30m bill after grant of legal aid

LEGAL COSTS

THE Maxwell trial is likely to enter the record books as the most expensive criminal prosecution for which the taxpayer has had to foot the bill. The final cost is predicted to reach £30 million, taking into account more than four years' investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, pre-trial preparation by four separate teams of barristers, solicitors and accountants (one team per defendant, but reduced to three at the trial after one defendant fell ill) and the eight-month trial itself.

Although there have been other big fraud cases, such as the Guinness and Blue Arrow trials, the entire costs of the Maxwell trial have been borne by the public purse, because all three defendants were on legal aid. The cost will add weight to the inquiry by the Lord Chancellor into the availability of legal aid for people who enjoy apparently lavish lifestyles.

The legal teams have been working on the case for more than four years. The three defendants have employed counsel and solicitors on enhanced rates because of the complexity of the case. Queen's Counsel, for example, may receive £257.50 per hour and solicitors up to £200 per hour.

The legal aid bill alone had reached £4.75 million by last May and is expected to be more than £11 million now.

The SFO estimates the costs of its whole investigation, which began in December 1991, a month after Robert Maxwell was found dead at sea, to be around £11 million.

The jury went out on day 121 of the trial, which was held in the Old Bailey's courtroom at Chichester Rents, specially adapted and equipped for lengthy fraud trials and used in the Blue Arrow and Barlow Clowes cases.

Crown Court trials cost on average £7,000 a day, but the daily cost of a trial involving large legal teams and the latest technology, such as instant transcription of evidence, will be much more.

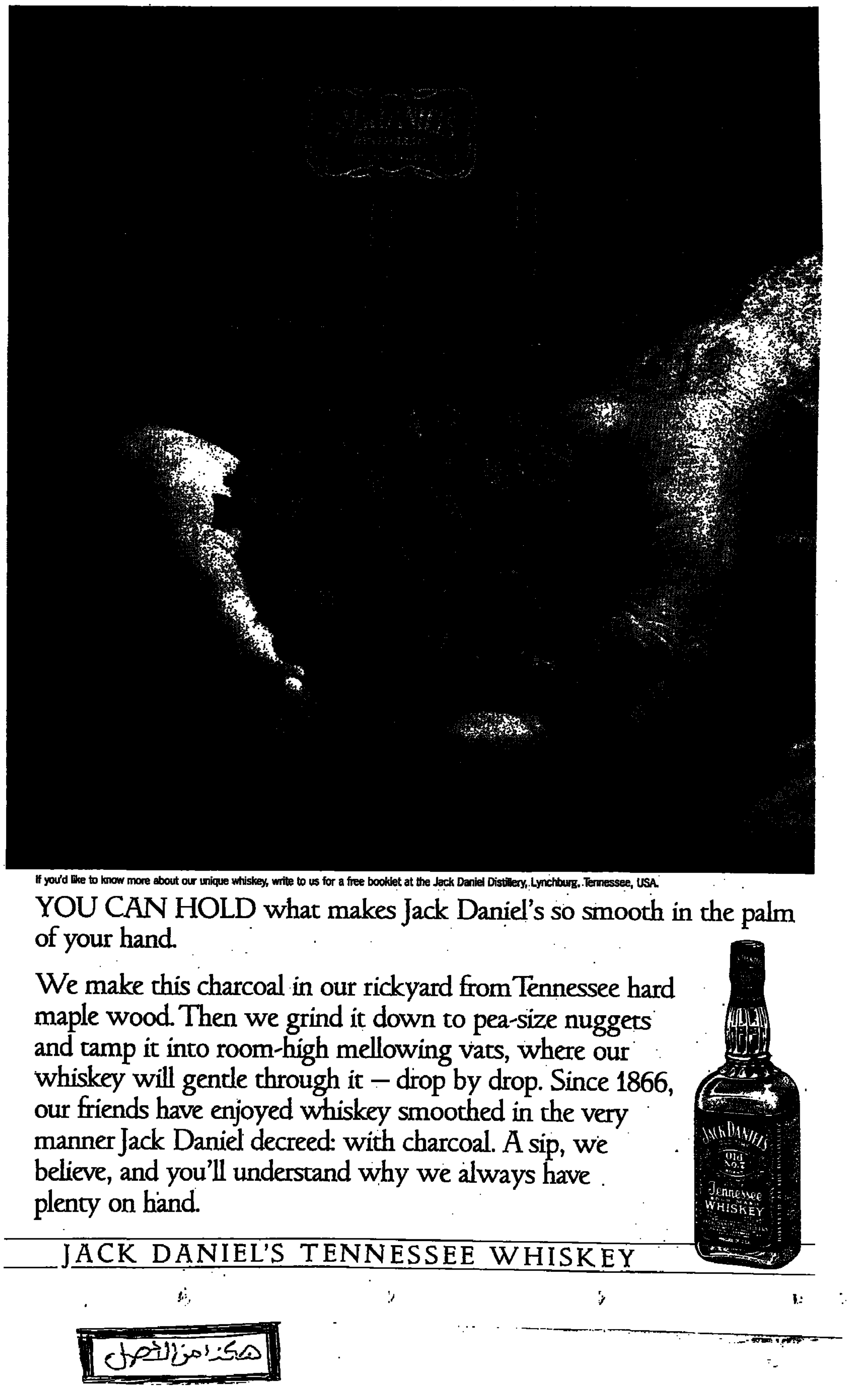
The judge, jury, defendants and their lawyers, the press and the public all had sight of monitors displaying documents or parts of them as they were called in evidence via a computerised system called Showcase, pioneered by Legal Technologies of London.

Each of the three defendants was represented by full teams of leading and junior counsel, and solicitors. The prosecuting team was led by Alan Suckling, QC, and Richard Lissack, QC, with two juniors, and solicitors from the SFO.

Kevin Maxwell was represented by Alun Jones, QC, with Clare Montgomery and Leah Saffian. His solicitor is Keith Oliver from Peters & Peters.

Michael Hill, QC, led the defence for Larry Trachtenberg, with James Richardson as his junior. His solicitors were Russell Jones & Walker. Ian Maxwell was represented by Edmund Lawson, QC, and Peter Doyle, with John Clitheroe, senior partner of Kingsley Napley, as his solicitor.

The Maxwell brothers' entitlement to legal aid prompted a furore and questions in Parliament. Kevin Maxwell became eligible after being declared bankrupt owing £406.5 million.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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Multimillion-pound demolition of house that Bob built

Maxwell in party mood at the height of his powers

By Jon Ashworth

THE EMPIRE

AT ITS peak the Maxwell empire looked unstoppable — a sprawling colossus embracing 800 companies and with interests in newspapers and publishing on both sides of the Atlantic. But after Robert Maxwell's death it was exposed as a house of cards, built on uncertain foundations and shored up by multimillion-pound bank loans.

Four years on, Maxwell's public and private interests have been scattered far and wide. A controlling stake in Mirror Group Newspapers was sold more than two years ago and nearly £800 million was raised from the sale of two key assets: Macmillan, the New York-based publisher, and the Official Airline Guide (OAG). Price Waterhouse, administrator of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC), the main quoted Maxwell company, has completed its asset sales and is mopping up disputed claims and outstanding legal action. More than $1 billion (£662 million) has been raised from sales involving the 400 companies under the MCC umbrella, and creditors have received 31p in the pound. Total realisations could reach $1.36 billion to $1.45 billion (£900-£960 million), giving creditors a total payment of 36p to 42p in the pound.

The American disposals brought in the bulk of the spoils. Macmillan was sold to Paramount Communications for £371 million in November 1993. Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publisher, had bought OAG for £417 million two months earlier.

Mark Homan, senior joint administrator of MCC, said: "The back of the job is broken. It has been a phenomenally difficult assignment." Price Waterhouse had to deal with British and American law simultaneously, and had teams shuttling back and forth across the Atlantic.

A further 400 companies fell under the umbrella of privately owned Robert Maxwell Group (RMG). Interests spanned helicopters, market research and publishing interests in Hungary, Israel and America. British holdings included a near 55 per cent stake in Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), owner of titles including the *Daily Mirror* and *The Sporting Life*.

MGN continued to trade throughout the storm over Robert Maxwell's plundering of the pension funds and embarked on a fierce round of cost-cutting under David Montgomery, who was appointed chief executive in October 1992. Arthur Andersen, administrator to the Maxwell private companies, distributed the Maxwell stake among City institutions in September 1993, raising £373 million for the benefit of creditors and pensioners.

British International Helicopters was the last of the Maxwell private companies to be sold — to a management buyout in January 1993. Other private interests included AGB, the market research company, which is now part of Taylor Nelson AGB, the UK's largest market research company. AGB's assets in mainland Europe were sold separately.

One of Maxwell's pet newspaper interests, *The European*, was snapped up by the Barclay Brothers in January 1992. American subsidiaries of the investment company London & Bishopsgate were sold to a management buyout in February 1992. Maxwell Cable TV and Nuffield Press were also sold to management teams. Stakes in Oxford United and Reading football clubs found buyers.

After seeking Chapter 11 protection, the New York *Daily News* was bought in October 1992 by Mort Zuckermann, an American property investor and magazine publisher. Back in London, MGN's former headquarters in Holborn stands vacant, awaiting redevelopment.

One of the few Maxwell companies to "get out in time" was British Printing Corporation, which prints many of Britain's biggest-selling magazines. It was bought from MCC by its management in January 1989, eight years after Robert Maxwell had added it to his expanding portfolio.

Result may harm legal attempts to retrieve fund's lost investments

By Caroline Merrell and Karen Zagor

THE PENSIONERS

Ivy Needham, above, the 70-year old pensioner appointed an MBE in the New Year Honours List for "services to Maxwell pensioners", has proved to be a redoubtable fighter. She said yesterday: "I heard the verdict on radio and just broke down and cried. Now the court has reached its not-guilty verdict can you please tell me, who was responsible for taking our pension fund money? We estimate that the case has cost as much as £30 million. That money could have been much better spent. There is nothing left for us in this country any more. The verdict still doesn't alter the fact that all my pensioners have been put through four years of living hell." Mrs Needham, who worked as a catering manager for 20 years at Petty's, the Leeds printing firm taken over by the Maxwell empire, began her campaign to secure a safe future for herself and thousands of pensioners within months of Maxwell's death in November 1991.

CIVIL cases against the Maxwell brothers to claim back millions of pounds in pension money may be affected by yesterday's verdicts, according to the solicitor for the 32,000 Mirror Group pensioners.

They have so far successfully clawed back £276 million from the missing £450 million fortune plundered from Robert Maxwell's companies. But not enough money has been recovered to enable future pensioners to exercise their right to take their pensions in a lump sum. However, there is enough money in the fund for current employees to collect their pensions when they retire.

John Fordham, of the London solicitors Stephenson and Harwood, was appointed to track down and recover missing funds from Maxwell's Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd, which is now in liquidation.

After the verdicts he said: "Last year we recovered £276 million for the liquidators and pensioners, but this has not completely filled the hole left by the missing funds. The amount of lost money changes all the time but the total is thought to be around £450 million. It is estimated that around three quarters of this sum has been recovered."

He went on: "So far we have got enough money to pay out all the current pensions and those that will mature in the future, if people want them paid in the normal way. But at the moment there is not enough for people who want to take the pension in one lump sum."

Mr Fordham said he knew where the missing money had gone: "It was used to prop up ailing businesses in the empire."

However, there is not thought to be a "pot of gold" hidden in a far country. "If there was a treasure trove stashed away, then it would have found by now by the liquidators."

He thought it was too early to say if the verdicts would affect any civil cases outstanding against the Maxwell brothers. "It should not have a direct result on them, but there could be an indirect bearing on their outcome.

"There are several cases that have been prepared which are still in litigation between the parties.

"There are different standards of blame and proof required in civil and criminal courts," he said. "The Maxwells may say it was a business mistake to move shares from one company to another, but it was not theft. And the jury have taken this view.

"It may be a different case in civil proceedings and we have won before."

Ken Trench, chairman of the Mirror Pensioners' Action Group, said they would be asking for early publication of a report into how pensions regulators failed to stop £450 million going missing from a £695 million pension fund.

His group's 32,000 members were satisfied with their £276 million out-of-court settlement last year when, he said, City institutions "finally responded to more than three years of pressure".

Mr Trench said it was essential to know what had gone wrong with the regulatory system so that action could be taken to stop anything like it happening again.

He said that after Robert Maxwell's death, when the pension losses came to light, the Securities and Investments Board had asked the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation to investigate what went wrong. "A report was produced by IMRO but we still don't know what was in it. We were told it would be published but it was sub judice until the end of the trial that has just finished.

"We now intend to ask when the report will be published. We need to know what it says so everyone knows what went wrong and what needs to be done to protect pension funds in future."

Tony Boram, chairman of the Association of Mirror Pensioners, said they were "devastated" at the verdicts. "Millions of pounds in pension money is still missing. Perhaps the Maxwells will backtrack and help us find it," he said.

"We started the legal challenge in 1991 before Robert Maxwell died because we felt he was abusing the fund. All I wish is that he were here to face the music.

"Because I was part of the Mirror Group, we had a company to protect us. The Mirror stepped in and helped, but others were in a much worse situation."

Doug Bristow, former director of British Printing and Communication Corporation and on the consulting committee of the Maxwell Pension Plan, said: "Luckily everyone rallied round. The banks were good and Parliament was extremely good. The global settlement arranged in March restored the majority of the pension money. But there was a time when some people thought they might get nothing from their pension and it was very worrying to think about what would happen to their widows and children if they died."

Bob Avery, who worked for the *Daily Mirror* for 35 years and is on the Mirror Association of Pensioners committee, said: "I am not at all pleased. It seems as if justice has not been done. I feel very sad for the others who have suffered more than I have."

JON HINDMARCH

Pandora Maxwell and her daughter Madeleine, 3, born in an NHS hospital

Gruelling trial did not thwart family ambitions

By Carol Midgley

PANDORA

IF ONE person has found a shred of comfort amid the ruins of the Maxwell empire, it is Pandora Maxwell. The feisty wife of Kevin, who, mistaking them for reporters, let fly at the two policemen who called at dawn to arrest her husband, is five months pregnant with their sixth child.

It speaks volumes about Pandora, 37, that she refused to let the lengthy trial interfere with her plans for a bigger family. Ironically, the Maxwell fiasco has enabled her to fulfil one of her ambitions — to abandon London and live with her family far from the madding crowd.

Today, their £1.5 million home in Chelsea is sold and the family is settled in a 10-bedroom country house shared with her parents, John and Ruth Warnford-Davis.

"She always wanted to bring up her children in the country and so in a peculiar, roundabout way she has got what she wanted," said Debbie Grossman, the wife of Loyd Grossman, the television presenter, and a close friend of Pandora's.

"She wanted to be near her parents — she adores family life — and all her time is now taken up looking after five children. With Kevin in court for the past few months she has been virtually coping on her own."

Yesterday as the not-guilty verdicts came in, Pandora was, as usual, picking the children up from school. "I haven't even told Pandora yet," said Kevin as he walked to his solicitors office.

In the small Oxfordshire village of Moulsford, Pandora and Kevin Maxwell have set great store by keeping a low profile. Although they moved in to the former Moulsford Manor Hotel, the wartime retreat for Sir Winston Churchill bought 18 months ago by Mr and Mrs Warnford-Davis, locals say they see the family rarely.

But although the family are living in relative luxury — the children still attend private schools, the fees paid by godparents and loyal friends — lifestyles have changed. Home now, though large, is ramshackle. The whitewash is cracked and peeling and much of the building is undergoing renovation.

The live-in nanny and domestic staff who helped Pandora with her children in London are gone and her days now are a constant round of washing, cooking and cleaning. The couple's last child, Madeleine, was born in an NHS hospital.

The woman who, after meeting Kevin at Oxford University, married him in 1984 largely against Robert Maxwell's wishes, is said to have clashed occasionally with her father-in-law.

Throughout the trial her strength has been "like steel", friends say. Pandora said: "It's obviously a difficult time but I'm just getting on with it. Tilly [10, their eldest child] is my unpaid helper and she's marvellous."

One former acquaintance of Kevin's said: "Pandora has shown herself to be one of life's survivors. She doesn't really give a damn what people think of her as long as her family is OK."

Widow is still paying price for the sins of her husband

By Carol Midgley

BETTY

BETTY MAXWELL spent most of her life in the shadow of her imperious husband. Today, though free of his tyranny, she continues to pay the price for his sins. She has lost her home in Britain, most of her possessions, and has become a hate figure to many Mirror pensioners. To add to her burdens her health has suffered too.

According to friends she recently developed a stomach tumour, possibly brought on by the strain of the family crisis. It was treated in her native country, France, and apparently cured.

But Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, as she prefers to be addressed, has not only inherited a legacy of despair from Robert Maxwell. More than four years after his death, she remains devoted to his passion, promoting Anglo-Israel relations.

Although not converted — she was born a French protestant — she spends much of her time in London attending meetings and doing good works for Jewish causes.

Currently she is on the executive committee of the Anglo-Israel Association, an independent charity in London which aims to foster good relations and understanding between the two countries.

Her work, which has included sponsoring the first major conference on the Holocaust in Britain, inspired the American Zionist Youth Foundation to appoint her Grand Marshal of the 1995 Salute to Israel parade in New York.

She is also a writer — her autobiography, *A Mind of my Own*, was published in 1994 — a well-respected lecturer and charity worker.

But though Maxwell's interests remain in her life, the trappings of his wealth do not. The former châtelaine of Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, married to Maxwell for more than 40 years, now resides what she terms a "microscopic" mid-terrace town house in Pimlico, southwest London, let to her at a peppercorn rent by the Duke of Westminster.

An irritated voice which answers the security intercom outside the four-bedroom Georgian building informs callers that, no, Dr Maxwell does not wish to talk to anybody, before the receiver is slammed down.

A £3 million château at Montagnac Sur Lede, southwest France, which Maxwell bought for her as a last, extravagant birthday gift, has been mortgaged "to the hilt" to provide money for Kevin and Ian's legal bills.

Dr Maxwell, 74, describes the place as "completely stark" with "nothing on the walls".

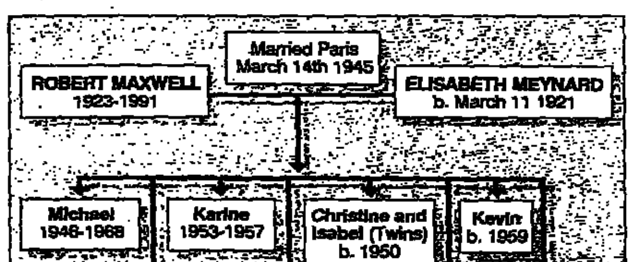
When in France she prefers to stay with her sister, Yvonne Vittoz, who is a retired doctor, in a modest house at Maisons-Laffitte, the racing town outside Paris. Headington Hill Hall where she raised her family has returned to its owner, Oxford City Council.

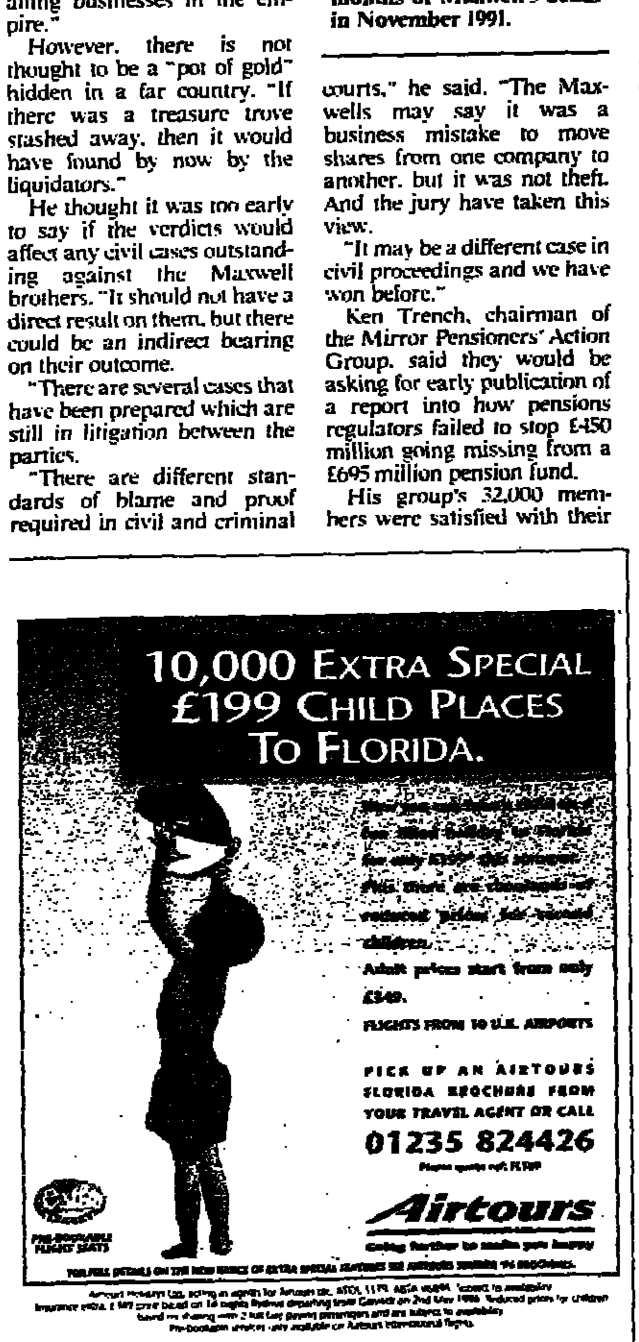
Betty Maxwell: works for Jewish causes

As a wife and mother Betty Maxwell endured years of tragedy and humiliation. Two of her nine children died, Karine of leukaemia in 1957 when three and Michael in 1961. He had been kept alive for seven years in hospital after a car crash but never awoke.

She suffered the indignity of her husband's obsession with his assistant, Andrea Martin, but insists: "He was besotted, nothing more."

But even after the empire collapsed in ruins, she continued to profess her love for him.

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The reluctant Daddy's girl

From James Bone in New York

GHISLAINE

ROBERT Maxwell's youngest child, Ghislaine, appears to be the one who inherited the disgraced tycoon's flair for the social whirl, not to mention his linguistic abilities and entrepreneurial acumen. Miss Maxwell lives in New York and stands to make a small fortune of her own this year from a computer business she runs in Manhattan.

Oxford-educated, she speaks several languages and has the dark good looks and flashing eyes which swept the young Robert Maxwell, MC, into Parliament. She was quick to spot the business potential of the Internet and now runs a computerised equivalent of the Yellow Pages which may go public this year. If the flotation is successful, Miss Maxwell should do well financially.

Miss Maxwell moved to America before her father's death on the yacht that he named after his favourite child. She said she liked the pace of New York, but it may have been she was also wearying of being used by Maxwell.

He had her pose in front of a load of banknotes for a *Daily Mirror* bingo promotion, and elaborately placed her on the boards of Oxford United and *The European*, reckoning that his pretty daughter represented the more acceptable face of Maxwell capitalism. In London she lived at his increasingly brusque beck and call. In New York, although she officially took a job as a reporter on Maxwell's *Daily News*, she knew she would be more free to do as she liked.

These days Miss Maxwell, who was thoroughly vetted (and cleared) by fraud investigators after her father's death, lives in a modest apartment on Manhattan's well-cushioned Upper East Side. When not working, she spends an increasing amount of her time with the suave Wall Streeter Jeffrey Epstein, with whom she is said to be "besotted".

Friends of Miss Maxwell believe Mr Epstein may be the man to relieve her of her membership of the "on-the-shelfers", a group of vivacious, 30-something English girls who chose their nickname on account of their enduring spinsterhood.

Model wife stands by man

By Carol Midgley

LAURA

HOME for Laura Maxwell, the former fashion model who once entertained her husband Ian's business friends at a £500,000 Belgravia apartment, is now a rented, two-bedroom house in an Islington square.

Outside there are none of the expensive cars that five years ago were a permanent feature in their Belgravia square. Ian Maxwell drives a BMW that "has seen better days" while his wife uses a moped. The green paint on the front door is peeling. The curtains, say neighbours, invariably stay closed, shutting out the view of a high-rise council block.

While her husband has been in court, Laura Maxwell has continued to devote energy to her work organising finance for British films. Last year she managed to secure a medium budget for a Shakespearean film. Previously she worked for United Artists, helping to set up the women's-interest channel, UK Living, and the Discovery Channel.

"It's a great relief to get on with my own work, independent of the very public difficulties in which Ian and his family are involved," is all she would say on the matter.

A near neighbour said: "They have been here for over a year but not a single one of the neighbours has spoken a word to them. All we really see of them is when they are coming and going. They get very few visitors here. Every weekend they go away but nobody knows where."

Described as a gentle and sensitive mid-western American girl, Laura, 33, has taken the public hostility shown to her husband badly. She is fiercely loyal and collapsed in tears while Ian was being questioned at Snow Hill police station.

After leaving a Boston college, the then Laura Plumb led a glamorous life modelling in Europe. She returned to Minnesota to start a career in television and it was at a London party hosted by a cable TV company that she met Ian. Five months after their wedding Robert Maxwell was dead.

The couple made a joint decision to delay starting a family until after the trial.

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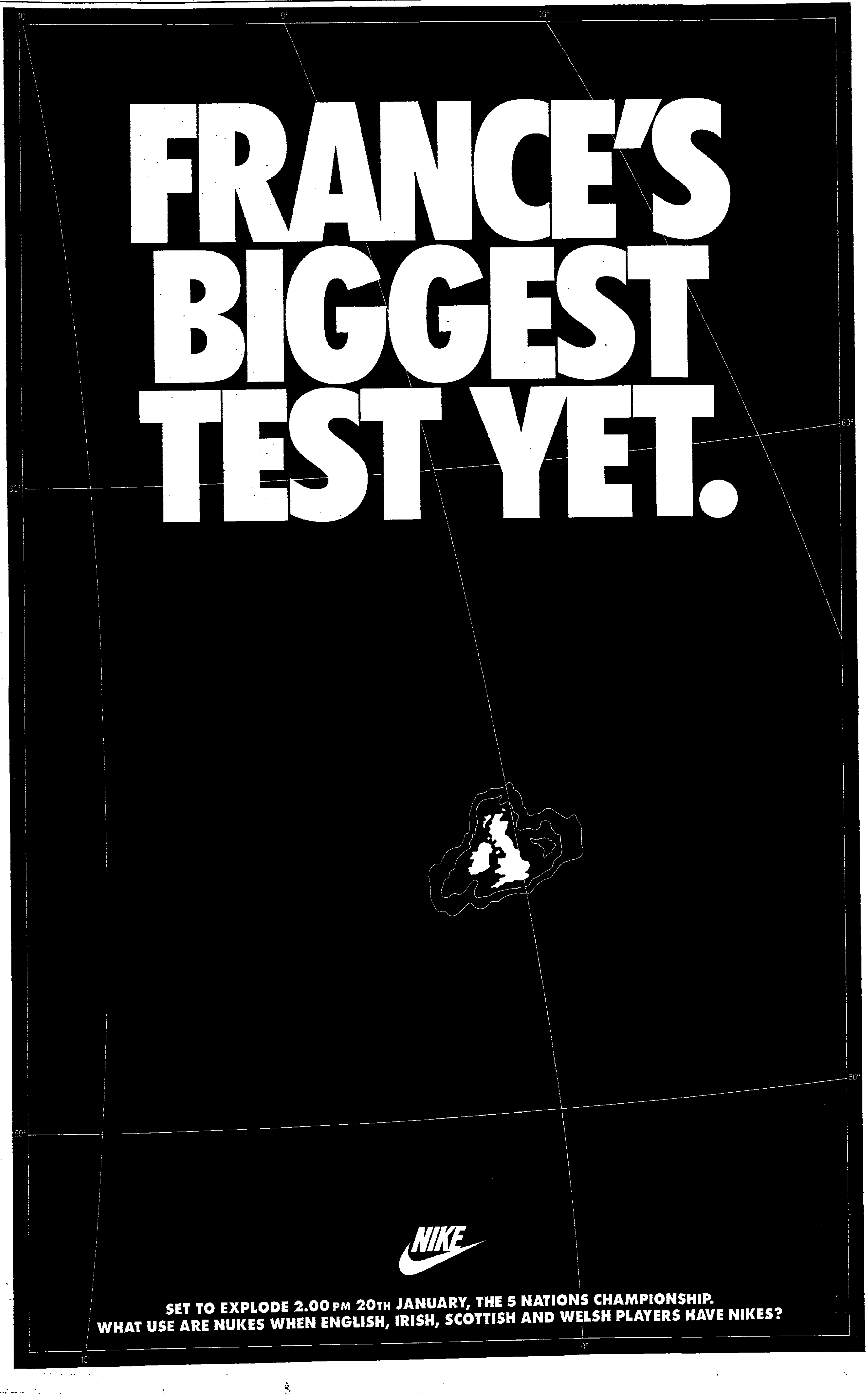

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RECEIVED

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'Tears flooded down my face — it was such an overwhelming feeling'

BARRY BATCHELOR

Julie Hill stands up. An implant in her spine stimulates nerves to make her leg muscles work

Crippled woman learns to stand

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A WOMAN paralysed from the waist down in a car accident five years ago has learnt to stand again with the aid of a computer-operated device implanted in her spine. Julie Hill, 34, who has been confined to a wheelchair since the accident, presses differently coloured buttons on a battery pack strapped to her waist to stand or sit.

Mrs Hill, from Chichester, West Sussex, is the first person in the world to be fitted with the device, which sends tiny electrical impulses to the base of her spine to stimulate the muscles in her legs. "When I stood up for the first time, tears flooded down my face. It was such an overwhelming feeling. It is so good to be able to look at someone eye-to-eye and not have them towering above you," she said.

Her operation was carried out at Salisbury District Hospital before Christmas 1994 but details were not released until yesterday. More than a year later, she has taken her first half-dozen shaky steps.

Mrs Hill, who is married with two sons aged 13 and 11, said: "I look and feel physically fitter. I can choose to sit and stand at will. Unless you have lost something completely you cannot fully appreciate what that means.

"I am a woman and care about how I look. The shape of my legs improved and I was able to feel comfortable in shorts this summer for the first time since my accident."

Nick Donaldson, a bioengineer who played a vital part in developing the device, said: "Julie has been the ideal patient. She could not have been better."

The eight-hour operation involved implanting a small receiver inside her chest cavity against her ribcage. A dozen wires from the receiver fan out to the base of her spine, below the point where it was broken when the car she was travelling in somersaulted after a tyre blow-out.

The surgeon, Tony Tromans, attached the wires to 12 motor nerves, six each side, where they emerge from the spinal cord in a bundle called the *cauda equina* (horse's tail). A transmitter powered by the battery pack is fitted under her arm sending pre-programmed radio signals to the implanted receiver.

The control box containing a computer chip is carried with the battery pack. Programming it to stimulate the right nerves in the right order was achieved by trial and error. Tim Perkins, a bio-engineer from University College London, who worked on the system, said: "It was infinitely more complex than we thought. To get Julie standing we tried 360 different patterns in each leg. For future patients we will be able to carry out the process more quickly."

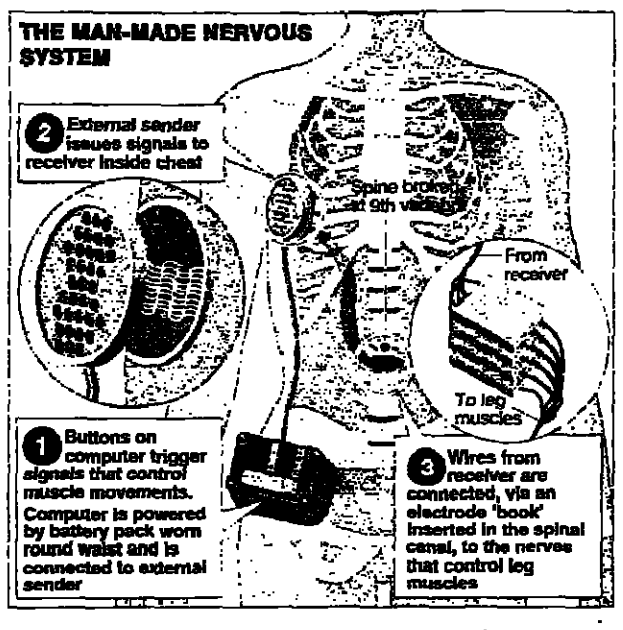
Mrs Hill had to undergo a year of training before the operation in which she was taught how to stand with external electrical stimulation via electrodes attached to her thighs and buttocks. The experience was gruelling but she was determined to succeed.

The operation is an important advance in the development of electrical stimulation systems to help patients with spinal cord injuries. But researchers are cautious about the system's potential as a walking device. They say future development may allow paraplegics such as Mrs Hill "stepping" access from wheelchair to bed or from car to house door, but it is many years away.

Mrs Hill said: "Developing walking is a distant possibility. I think the wheelchair is always going to be my main means of mobility. But limited walking would mean easier access in awkward transfer situations."

The project, a joint effort by the Salisbury Spinal Unit, University College London, the Royal London hospital and the Royal National Orthopaedic hospital, is featured in a BBC Television *Inside Story* documentary on February 1.

THE MAN-MADE NERVOUS SYSTEM


② External sender issues signals to receiver inside chest
Spine broken at 9th vertebra
From receiver
To leg muscles
① Buttons on computer trigger signals that control muscle movements. Computer is powered by battery pack worn round waist and is connected to external sender
③ Wires from receiver are connected, via an electrode 'book' inserted in the spinal canal, to the nerves that control leg muscles

INSIDE

Kid's Stuff

The amazing child *stars of the* Cirque du Soleil *and their lives* as circus animals in **1015** the magazine for young *Times* readers, inside the Magazine today

Lord who ran amok is spared jail term

By A Staff Reporter

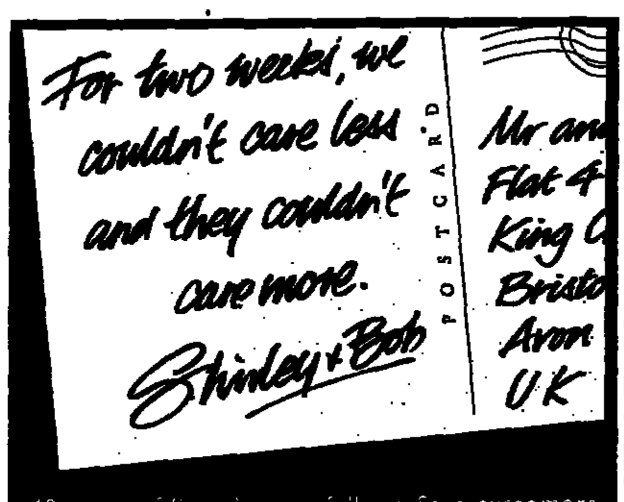
VISCOUNT POLLINGTON narrowly avoided being sent to prison yesterday for crimes committed after he turned to drink when he found his sister dead from a drug overdose.

The 36-year-old international yachtsman, heir to the Earl of Mexborough, discovered the body of Lady Alethea Savile at her home in Chelsea 15 months ago, the Old Bailey was told. "He adored her," David Etherington, for Pollington, said.

His client went berserk outside his local pub in Knightsbridge in July, waving a gun and terrifying customers. A month later he threatened staff at a Chelsea off-licence after a woman refused to serve him.

Yesterday he admitted possession of an imitation gun and affray. He was put on probation for two years on condition that he receives medical treatment for drink and drug problems. He was also ordered to do 100 hours' community service.

Recorder Heather Hallett, QC, told Pollington that although he had been at a very low ebb "it does not excuse your behaviour". "If you do not carry on with your efforts or repeat behaviour of this kind — or if anyone is ever hurt — no court would give you another chance."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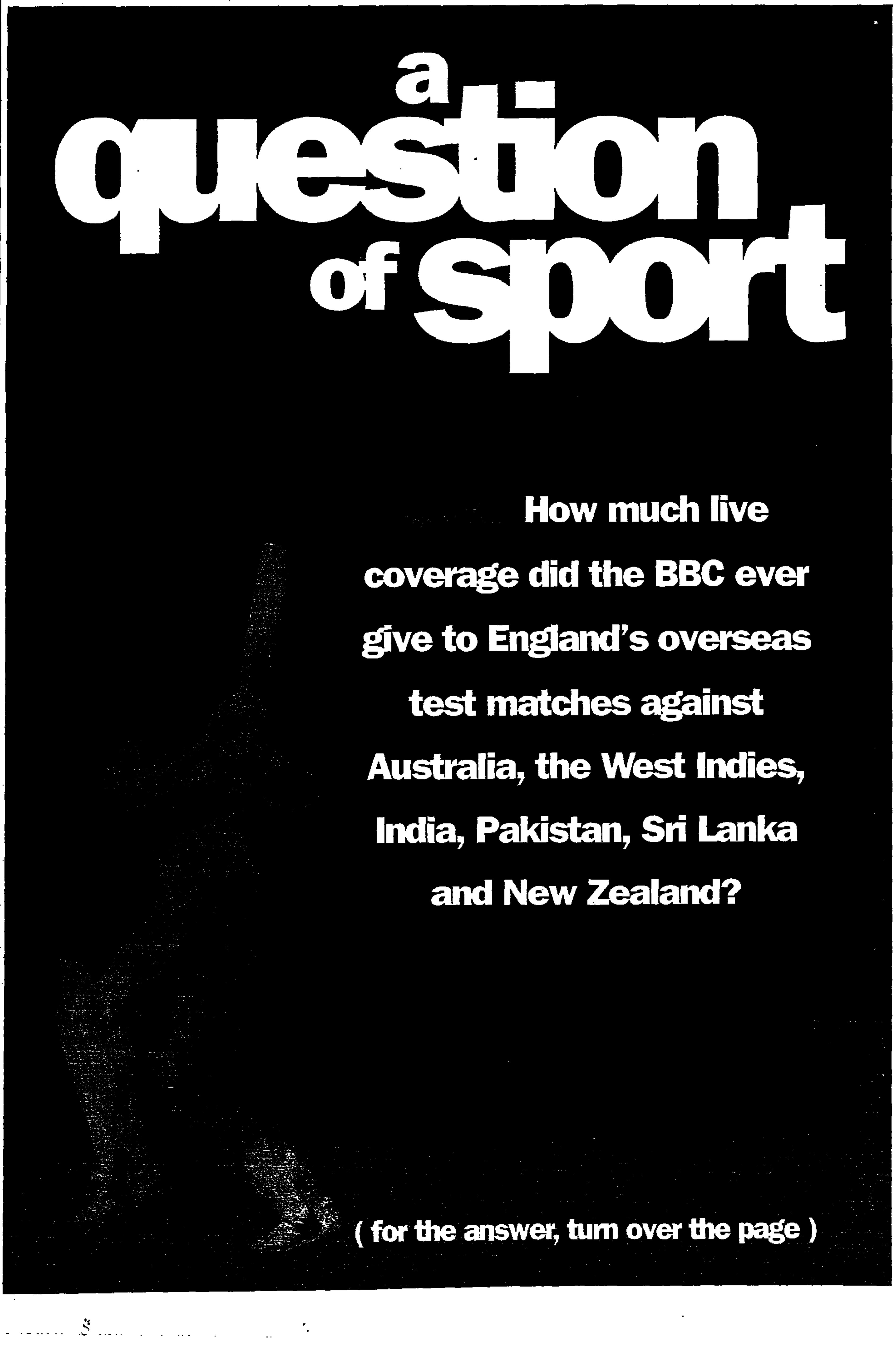


How much live coverage did the BBC ever give to England's overseas test matches against Australia, the West Indies, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand?

(for the answer, turn over the page)

TRAVEL

FAMILY HOLIDAYS: **Brian MacArthur** on the teen scene in Turkey and **Paul Hoggart** visits Legoland

WORLD PICTURES

Hidden agenda: wise planning means that hotels and apartment blocks are never more than two storeys high at Olu Deniz, so they cannot be seen from the glorious beach

Spreading their wings

Say Turkey and the image conjured up will almost certainly be of the sweeping curve of the beach at Olu Deniz with its lagoon at one end and majestic mountains behind.

It was here last summer that I tried an experiment. At 16, teenagers are on the cusp: they don't really want to go on holiday with their parents but they are not yet quite ready to go off on their own. After the ordeal of GCSEs, they certainly don't want an earnest cultural holiday. At the top of the agenda is a sunny beach by day and a throbbing disco by night.

Olu Deniz, an hour-and-a-half from Dalaman airport after a four-hour flight, is a summer tourist resort on the Lycian coast which offers decent hotels, a superb beach, and a sense of adventure by night without any of the accompanying sense of menace that reputedly hangs over centres such as Bodrum. It is also conveniently situated for excursions to some of the great sights of Turkey at Ephesus, Pamukkale and Cappadocia, or (for £105) an overnight visit to Istanbul.

We went half-board on a Thomson package to the Olu Deniz Resort Hotel, situated at the easternmost end of the beach, away from the most crowded areas and set in small blocks, where we had spacious rooms with balconies overlooking lush gardens bursting with fruit and flowers. The beach was a two-minute walk away, although several tourists (British) preferred to spend their days by the hotel pool.

Once booked in, cash was banished. Guests buy books of vouchers which are used to pay for drinks and meals that are not included in the package. At breakfast and dinner, the tables groaned with mountainous selections of hors d'oeuvres, chicken, lamb, fish, vegetables and fruit.

My daughter and her friend slept until nearly 10am, before setting off for a day on the beach, swimming, sunbathing and reading, interrupted when the heat became intolerable by a cheap snack at one of the restaurants behind the beach.

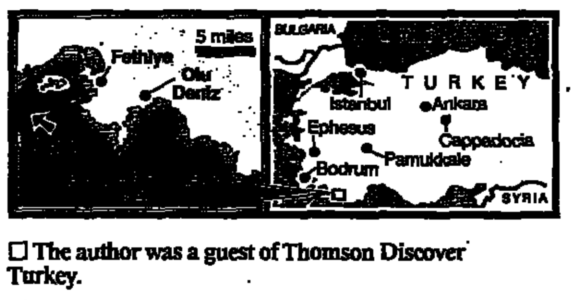
Once dinner was over, by nine, the night was young. Music, Western and Turkish, wafted on the warm night air, along with the sweet-smelling smoke from the barbecues. This was when the girls set off into the night, an anxious parent left behind with the thought that girls cannot always be protected if they are to grow up and learn to cope on their own — but it was difficult. They survived. I survived, though not without a few worrying moments when they had not returned to the hotel by midnight. But they were enjoying themselves hugely, meeting boys of all nationalities in the discos, afterwards sitting on the beach playing guitars.

Olu Deniz would not be to everybody's taste. It is now a mass tourist resort, although in early July it was not unbearably overcrowded. Geography and wise planning also give it one big advantage. Behind the beach the land falls back, so from the sea and the beach, the hotels, all only one or two-storeys high, cannot be seen and you feel that you are swimming directly under the mountains.

Yet in the dip behind the beach there has grown a busy, bustling, makeshift "high street", a promenade of restaurants, cafés, bazaars, bars and discos. At night, the resort throbs with life and music. It is lively without being yobbish, crowded or brutishly noisy.

It was not a holiday I would have chosen myself but it was enthusiastically voted a success by the two girls.

Turkey fact file: where to stay



☐ The author was a guest of Thomson Discover Turkey.

☐ A seven-night stay at the Olu Deniz Resort Hotel costs from £299, including flights, room and breakfast, and a week half board from £315. There are departures from 12 British airports.

☐ Brochures are available from travel agents or by calling the Thomson Holiday Shop (0171-707 9000).

Mini village is a model of ingenuity

Americans like saccharine fantasy. The British enjoy old-world funfair vulgarity. The descendants of the mighty Viking Sven Forkbeard, however, have a 25-acre theme park devoted to tiny, noduled bricks.

The Danish inventor, Ole Kirk Christiansen, is a most unjust omission from the Nobel Peace Prize roll. Lego is capable of tranquillising a hyperactive monster in seconds.

Ole bought his first plastic-moulding machine in 1947, and his tricksy little cuboids appeared soon afterwards. By the early Sixties the factory in Billund, Denmark, had so many visitors that his son Godtfred decided to create an outdoor exhibition of models. Legoland opened in 1968, and Lilleby, the original model village, still lurks in the middle, a bonsai version of the world outside.

Today the park offers rides and activities, primarily for young children, but these are peripheral to what must be the world's largest and most intricate model village. I knew my children (aged three, six and nine) would love it, but expected to find it a trifle naff myself. I was won over.

The heart of the park is Miniland, a vast area of reconstructed landmarks and landscapes, mainly from Teutonic Europe. There are palaces and castles, harbours, waterways and mountain villages, all meticulously copied from life.

I found the Norwegian Lofoten island fishing village particularly charming. "Medbourne", an English town modelled on buildings in Chester, York and Stamford, is drab in comparison.

The most exotic exhibits are grouped around the mini-boat ride. A Lego Capitol sits beside a 30ft Statue of Liberty. The Acropolis and the Golden Temple of Bangkok squat amid the mini vegetation.

Beyond Miniland lies a primary-coloured toytown. Everything not actually built of Lego or Duplo (the chunky junior version) is made to resemble them. Here a Lego chef stands outside a café; there a Lego Indian skulks on a frontier sidewalk. The "theming" is ferociously detailed. One café serves Lego-shaped chips.

The park has a fine selection of "pink-knuckle" rides, exciting enough to thrill the under-tens. The best are the timber ride, a log-effect roller-coaster, the Mine Train and Lego Canoe, which winds past life-size American wilderness animals before plunging down a water-splash. Toy animals abound, particularly on Lego Safari, a jeep ride through an African game reserve.

In Legoredo, the western frontier town, visitors can pan for gold or join the Indian tribe of Chief Playing Eagle. There's even a campfire where, for a small fee, you can bake twists of fresh bread skewered on twigs.

For the very young, Duploland offers helicopter, train and plane rides, and if it rains there's an indoor area with thousands of bricks lying around to play with.

To get an overview, start with the train ride round the park, or ascend Legotop, the 40-metre, revolving viewing platform. You can just about cover the park in one day but two-day passes are good value.

The Legoland Hotel is in the park, but there are many interesting places to visit in the area. We stayed in the Munkebjerg Hotel in Vejle, half an hour down the road, set in a wooded park full of sculptures and overlooking a fjord. The Hans Christian Andersen museum at Odense is within easy reach.

The new Legoland at Windsor is due to open this year. I wonder how well the phlegmatic Danish charm will survive the transition.

● *The author and his family were guests of Maersk Air, Terminal House, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AU (0171-333 0066) and the Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SY (0171-259 5958).*

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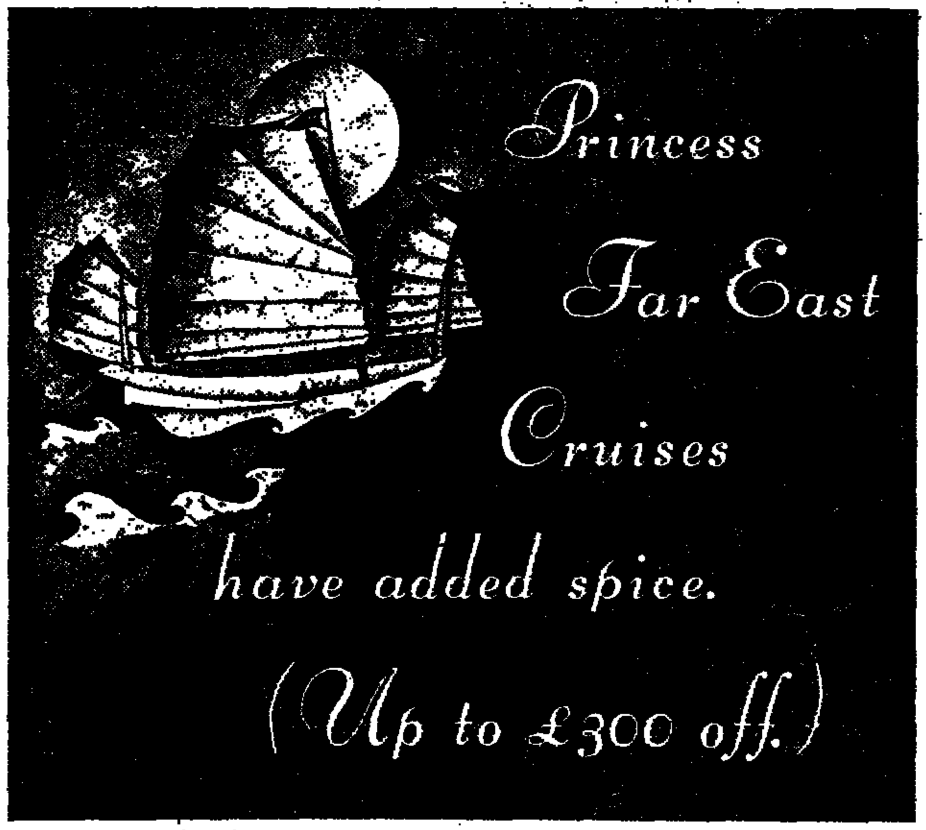

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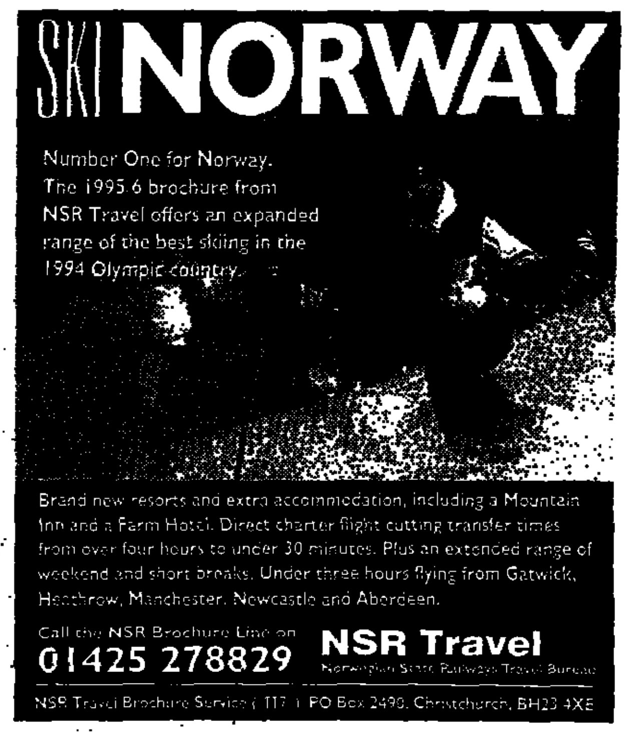

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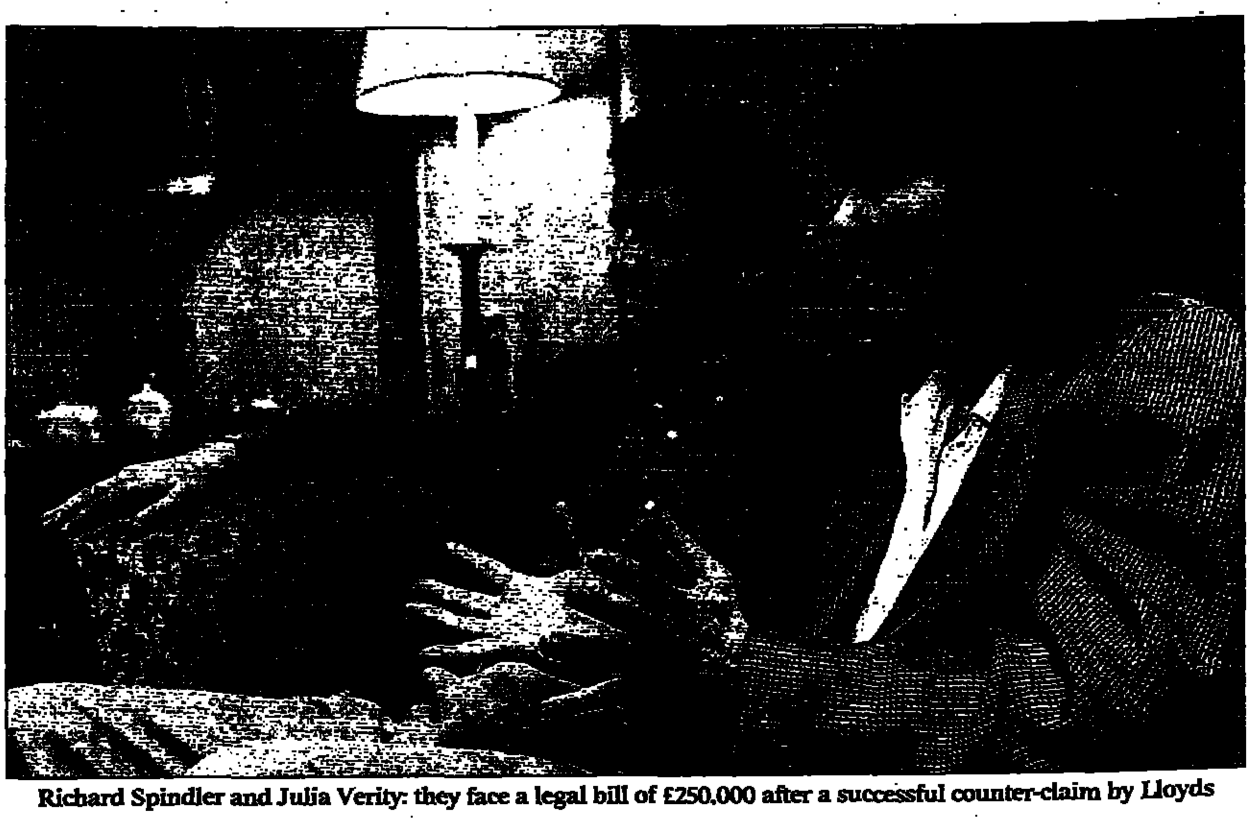
'Morally we are in the right. We took on the banks and won but we have lost everything'

Lloyds wins £100,000 from couple given bad business advice

By Paul Wilkinson



Richard Spindler and Julia Verity: they face a legal bill of £250,000 after a successful counter-claim by Lloyds

A COUPLE who won compensation for bad advice from Lloyds Bank in a landmark case faced bankruptcy yesterday after a High Court judge ruled they must pay the bank £100,000 plus costs.

Damages of £77,500 awarded last September to Richard Spindler and Julia Verity after a judge ruled that the bank had been negligent in dealing with a property development were wiped out yesterday by a successful counter-claim and costs awarded in favour of Lloyds.

Outside court the couple, from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, said they still believed that they were in the right, although the costs will probably bankrupt them. They plan to appeal. Mr Spindler, 36, an acupuncturist, said: "We proved that Lloyds were negligent, but through a legal device they *have come out on top* financially. We have lost everything. We face costs of £250,000 and damages to the bank of £25,000, but we can still hold our head up. We changed the way banks look at advice given to their borrowers. Morally we are in the right. We took on the big banks and won."

Mrs Verity, 55, a former primary teacher, said: "We face bankruptcy. We will probably lose our house and be out on the street, but we can still enjoy ourselves even if we do it as tramps. We have no *regrets about bringing the* case but it is a relief that it is over. We have had this hanging over us for so long."

The High Court decision last September alarmed the banking world after Judge Robert Taylor, sitting in Leeds, ruled that Lloyds had been negligent with its advice when the couple took a *£160,000 loan in 1988 to buy* and renovate a Victorian house in their home town.

The collapse of the property market over the next two years and unforeseen costs of £25,000 meant the house could not be sold at a profit and in the meantime they ran up huge debts with the bank on other loans including mortgages on the two houses they already owned.

But Lloyds counter-claimed for more than £141,000, still owed by the couple on those loans. Yesterday, after a four-day hearing at Leeds, Judge *Taylor rejected the couple's* argument that the debt to the bank on the investment loan had been extinguished when that property was sold, even though the money raised did not cover the debt to the bank.

The judge also discounted their claim that money from the sale of Mr Spindler's house should have been used to settle their mortgages and other advances and not to cover the business loan given to buy the investment property. The court heard yesterday that at an earlier stage in the legal proceedings Lloyds had offered to reduce the amount they were claiming by £100,000 and to pay all the couple's costs but they rejected the offer.

With interest calculations, which still have to be completed, the couple will owe the bank approximately £25,000. However, the judge also awarded the bank all the costs of its counterclaim and half those of the couple's original claim because it had not succeeded on all its points.

Last night Miss Verity and Mr Spindler disclosed that they planned to separate. They said, however, that they were not splitting up because of the eight-year legal battle but because of their age difference. Mrs Verity is 55, her companion is 19 years her junior.

Mrs Verity said: "I shall be grandmother soon and Richard wants to have children of his own."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weather delays two balloon expeditions

The Moroccan launch of Richard Branson's round-the-world balloon flight was delayed last night by a frontal depression over North Africa expected to last at least five days. Martin Harris, a co-pilot of the *Virgin Challenger* and a professional meteorologist, said in Marrakesh: "If we went now, the *Challenger* would be propelled north and could encounter heavy ice. Up to a ton of ice can *bring the Challenger prematurely to the ground*."

A Dutch attempt to orbit the globe by balloon also faces a delay of at least five days. A persistent front of high pressure over Russia, causing a strong southeasterly wind, has grounded the *Unicef Flyer*. Its pilot, Henk Brink, 52, is waiting to ascend from Eindhoven.

Cancer hopes dashed

Two American trials have shown that pills containing the nutrient beta-carotene do not protect against cancer or heart disease. Many doctors had attributed the healthy effects of diets high in fruit and vegetables to beta-carotene. One trial was terminated 21 months early when it showed that the risks to smokers were increased. Smokers taking the supplement had a 28 per cent higher chance of getting cancer.

Children to serve drink

Teenagers too young to drink alcohol are to be allowed to serve drinks in pubs and hotels under government proposals for a three-year apprenticeship. Licensing laws are to be changed to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to serve in bars. Campaigners for sensible drinking, including Dr John Rae of the Portman Group, said that it would be difficult for young men and women aged 16 and 17 to refuse to serve alcohol to people under age.

Rail executive found

A senior Railtrack executive who vanished 11 days ago from his home in Solihull, West Midlands, was found safe yesterday. Peter Monaghan, 48, was recognised by a hotel manager in north London after his wife made an appeal for him to return home. Mr Monaghan had left home saying he was going to work but did not arrive at his London office. Last night he was being treated in hospital for a stress-related illness.

Diet deceiver jailed

***Peter Foster, 33, the former boyfriend of the model* Samantha Fox, was jailed for two years after being convicted at Liverpool Crown Court of conspiracy over a bogus diet. Judge Richard Hamilton recommended that Foster, an Australian who had been living in Barnet, London, be deported. The "Deakin Diet", named after a former Young Slimmer of the Year, was offered for sale by Foster under a false trade description.**

Princess visit arrests

Two Sinn Fein protesters were arrested in Dublin yesterday after they broke into the grounds of the British Embassy hours before the Princess Royal was due to open the new building. They were released without charge. In a separate incident two men were arrested in Castlebar, Co Mayo, when an Irish tricolor flag was unfurled as Prince Edward arrived in the town.

Lorry drivers held

Two Austrian lorry drivers were being interviewed yesterday over a hit and run accident on Thursday in which Amy Durling, 15, from Herne Bay, Kent, died as she delivered newspapers on her bicycle. Kent police said that one lorry had been stopped in Wolverhampton and a *second was held at Bradford. Both drivers* were taken to Kent for questioning.

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Blair rejects fierce attack

Major denounces social chapter as 'immoral tax'

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE social chapter is an immoral European tax on jobs, John Major said yesterday as he presented his own vision of an "enterprise economy". Mounting a defiant fightback after rumours at Westminster of a new plot to oust him, the Prime Minister signalled that the social chapter would become one of the main battlegrounds with Labour in the run-up to the general election.

In a move that will delight Tory Euro-sceptics, he employed some of his strongest language to criticise rulings by Brussels on workers' rights. Speaking to the Institute of Directors in Birmingham, Mr Major warned of the future impact of more regulations on employment and social issues, claiming the social chapter was a "blank cheque".

He contrasted the rise in unemployment in Germany, France, Italy and Spain with the fall in Britain. "The social chapter should be seen for what it is, a European jobs tax — a tax on jobs by the front door and in time, a tax on jobs by the back door.

"That's why it's immoral. That's why, if I'd signed the social chapter I could never have looked the unemployed in the eye again."

Tony Blair, also on a visit to the Midlands, immediately dismissed Mr Major's attack as "exaggerated, violent and ludicrous". He pointed out that the social chapter had proposed only two legal changes, one on employees' rights and one on parental leave.

"Every single other conservative party in Europe is in favour of the social chapter, as is every other conservative government," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

Mr Major and Mr Blair set out their own alternative visions — "enterprise" against "stakeholder" — of how to secure greater prosperity for people in Britain.

Mr Major reaffirmed his long-term aim of abolishing inheritance and capital gains taxes and bringing down government spending as a share of national income. "Enterprise is at the heart of a free and prosperous society. With enterprise comes risk, but also reward. It creates competitiveness and builds prosperity and economic growth," he said.

Developing another theme that will be central to Tory general election strategy, he said: "Our enterprise economy is not negotiable. Our economic success is too valuable to be destroyed by experiments."

Mr Blair, speaking to 400 businessmen and women at a breakfast meeting in Nottingham, received a mixed reaction as he defended his idea of a stakeholder economy. There would be no sweeping repeal of trade union laws and unions would not be treated with special favours. "We all want to see a successful, enterprising Britain but we cannot achieve that without commitment to education, skills and new technology."

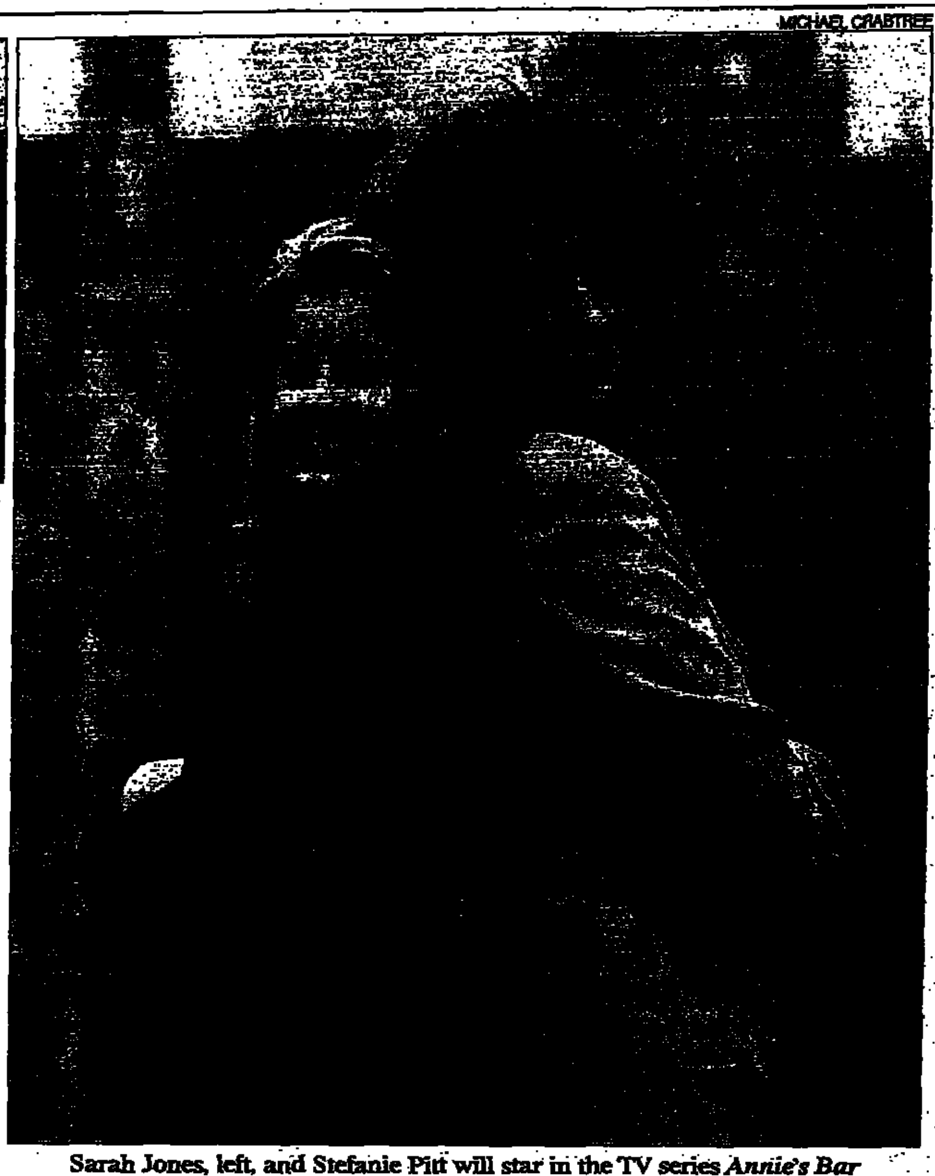
A strong economy would build Britain's strength in Europe, he said. "It is because of the weakness of our leadership at home that we are weak in Europe."

He later told the Press Association: "It is all very well the Conservatives talking about delivering an enterprise economy. They have had 16 years and they have failed and it is time for a new approach based on an economy in which everyone has a stake."

Mr Major's Birmingham speech coincided with reports that he had overruled Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in his decision to publish a White Paper on the Government's position on Europe in the run-up to the intergovernmental conference.

Mr Clarke is believed to have circulated a paper to his Cabinet colleagues outlining his objections to its publication. He was concerned that a White Paper could box in the Goverment and, at the same time, split the party.

Prince Edward: his firm has spent "a fortune"



MICHAEL CRABTREE

Sarah Jones, left, and Stefanie Pitt will star in the TV series *Annie's Bar*

Prince's TV soap smells of politics

THOSE who claim that British politics is more sleazy soap opera than serious democratic government may be about to be proved right (Alice Thomson writes). Prince Edward's company, Ardent Productions, has spent "a fortune" producing a TV series based on the life and times of aspiring backbench MPs, which they hope will be "racier than *EastEnders*".

The series begins on Channel 4 on February 1 and will be known as *Annie's Bar* in honour of the House of Commons watering hole. It will be set in and around the Palace of Westminster.

As so often in real life, politics will take a back seat to the romantic peccadilloes and financial shenanigans of our elected representatives. Tory wives are found anxiously chewing their pearls at home while their husbands chase American research assistants around the sofas of the gentleman's club on the Thames.

Whips bully recalcitrant MPs in the lavatories and, over crumpets in the tearoom, sacked ministers vow revenge. The plot each week will closely mirror the news with stories on women-only shortlists, stakeholder economics, a prime minister called John Major who is in deep trouble and several Tory MPs on the chicken run desperately searching for new safer seats.

MPs, journalists and spin-doctors as well as Sir Anthony Jay, co-author of *Yes Minister*, have acted as advisers to the soap.

Edwina Currie, Screaming Lord Sutch and Ken Livingstone have been asked to play themselves, but the rest of the characters are meant to be fictional, with names such as Stiggy Bedford-Bounds.

Producers know that they are taking the risk that the real lives of MPs will remain more scandalous than their own series. What credible plotline could include a toe-sucking minister and a spurned actress?

Daylight Bill is wrecked as time runs out

By Alice Thomson
Political Reporter

PLANS to move British clocks an hour forward to be in line with Europe were scuppered yesterday after a heated debate in the Commons. Time ran out for John Butterfill's plans when Scottish Office Ministers lined up with Scottish nationalists, northern Labour MPs and Tory Euro-sceptics to wreck the Bill.

Mr Butterfill (C, Bournemouth W) was seven votes short of getting his Bill through to committee stage. He gathered 93 votes in favour of a motion to close debate on his British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill but needed 100 to go to a final vote.

The House had not been so full on a Friday since the anti-hunting Bill a year ago. MPs were jeered by their own benches and the House was split much on geographical lines. There were recriminations on both sides about the way statistics had been "massaged". Campaigners for the Bill were livid that Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, had insisted that the 130 MPs on the government payroll should not vote, yet his own ministers were exempted.

Mr Butterfill emphasised that road safety was the main reason that a change in time was needed. He said an extra hour of light in the evenings would help to cut accidents for the young, the elderly and those returning from work.

He said his case was backed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the RAC, AA, builders, British Safety Council, British Medical Association, Police Federation and 300 businesses.

Peter Hain (Lab, Neath) said a White Paper in 1970 showed accidents to postmen doubled the last time double summertime was tried. Mr Butterfill said the Communication Workers Union did not back that view.

Sir Hector Monro (C, Dumfries) asked: "What would the people of London say if this Bill was imposed on them in a way that they were in darkness at 10.15 in the morning? There would be a riot."

Lilley orders clampdown to cut £730m housing benefit fraud

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

PETER LILLEY pledged yesterday to get tougher on housing benefit fraud after a government survey disclosed it was costing the taxpayer at least £730 million a year.

Labour MPs seized on the finding that most money lost through fraud was in the private sector, and said that unscrupulous landlords rather than tenants were more likely to cheat taxpayers.

Mr Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said the survey of 52 local authorities showed housing benefit fraud was costing up to £1 billion. It forms the bulk of illegal social security claims, estimated to total £2.4 billion a year.

Mr Lilley announced a series of measures to cut housing benefit abuse by up to 70 per cent, including £10 million for councils to help them to set up regular investigations. Ministers also plan to use computer technology to streamline the system to prevent multiple "cross-border" claims in different benefit areas.

The study said one in five housing benefit claims was fraudulent or incorrect, but error was almost twice as prevalent as fraud. Unemployed people were more likely to commit fraud, with about 12 per cent of claims from this group found or suspected of being fraudulent. Seven per cent of lone parents were suspected or found guilty of fraud. Three in ten frauds involved deception about the amount or existence of earnings.

Mr Lilley said it would take several years for the measures to have an impact on benefit abuse, particularly where organised fraud has taken root.

"It is a huge amount of money, whichever way you look at it, and we are determined to stop it. It is both landlords and tenants. A lot of them drift into it, accidentally, perhaps, initially, and find it difficult to get out. That is why it is even more important to prevent and deter fraud in the first place than it is to detect it once it gets under way," he said.

An inquiry into benefit fraud has been launched by the Commons Social Security Select Committee, and it will particularly study the scale of fraud by private-sector landlords.

Members of the committee have suggested that a single landlord may make housing benefit claims on behalf of dozens of fictitious residents under rules that allow payments to be made direct to landlords. Some are believed to have claimed up to £1 million fraudulently.

Chris Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that moves to counter fraud were welcome but long overdue. He urged Mr Lilley to review his departmental arrangements because of the high incidence of error.

Andrew Webster, head of the local authority investigation officers group, said the clampdown could expose even greater levels of fraud. "We reckon it accounts for about 20 per cent of the £10.6 billion paid out last year ... and it could be more than that," he said on the BBC Radio 4 programme *Today*.

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Inaugural winner invited to spread message after competition combining fun and serious intent

Search begins for preacher to champion spoken word

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE search for the country's top preacher resumes today with the launch of the second Preacher of the Year Award. Preachers from churches of all denominations and their congregations are invited to submit sermons for the award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*.

The award is open to all lay and ordained preachers aged over 18 with regular access to a preaching platform or pulpit. Preachers can enter themselves or be entered by their congregations, but no preacher should be entered without their permission.

Last year's winner, the Rev Barry Overend from St Chad's in Leeds, was selected from 500 entries. His winning sermon was broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 and he was invited to preach elsewhere and to deliver a new year's message on local television. He urged preachers to enter or to allow their congregations to enter them. He said: "The final in London did not feel like a competition because I was preaching in a church full of people."

Five preachers will be selected from a shortlist of 30 for this year's final, to be held at Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday, October 30. It will again take place in the context of a service of prayer and meditation, interspersed with sermons.

The Right Rev Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, who is chairman of the council of the College of Preachers and who will chair the judging panel, said: "Preaching the word of God is an indispensable part of the Christian tradition. As a means of communication it is still valid and powerful.

"An element of competition is a good thing. The award is partly a bit of fun, and partly a serious attempt to raise the standards of preaching among all of us."

Those wanting to enter should submit a typed manuscript. Tapes will not be accepted. The closing date for entries is March 31. The winner will receive a specially commissioned sculpture. The five runners-up will receive commemorative plaques, and the sermons of all 30 shortlisted preachers will be published in *The Times Book of Best Sermons* by Cassell.

The 30 sermons shortlisted last year are available now in The Times. Book of Best Sermons *(Cassell £9.99).*

Cardinal Hume, page 20
At Your Service, Weekend, page 5

CHRIS HARRIS

The Rev Barry Overend, the winner of last year's award, whose sermon was broadcast on Radio 4

Look beyond biblical stories if you seek God's inspiration

Barry Overend

TERRIFIC hymns. Pity about the Bible reading. One verse should suffice to substantiate my sense of regret: "His brains oozed out on the ground, his limbs twitched, and he died."

The oozing brains and the twitching limbs were those of Sisera, the Caananite commander, who was brought to a bloody end by the Israelite heroine Jael. In an ancient, male-dominated society, Jael struck a blow for feminism by hammering a tent peg into Sisera's head as he slept.

The last time I heard that Bible story, from Judges iv, read in public was at a cathedral service during which choristers from all over the region were presented with their choral awards. Naturally there were a lot of youngsters and their parents in the congregation. Either by oversight, or more likely by design, no one had seen fit to alter the day's set reading to suit the occasion.

In its weekly appraisal of a particular act of worship, this newspaper awards star ratings for sermon, music and liturgy. Perhaps "usage of scripture" ought to be assigned a category of its own. Sometimes it is woefully inappropriate. After the cathedral service to which I have referred, the mother of one of the choristers expressed to me her dismay that such a slavish adherence to the lectionary had confronted her child with such a brutal biblical story.

Is it any wonder that her son is already having misgivings about religion in general, and the Bible in particular? At the age of 12 he is growing increasingly sceptical of the Church's claim that the Bible is the "Word of God".

If we want to hear God's word we need to be far more selective in our public reading of scripture, and far more willing to turn an ear elsewhere. The writings of past and present saints, novelists and poets are a neglected source of inspiration as far as public worship is concerned. Similarly, although the excesses of Sheffield's Nine O'clock Service need to be avoided, the potential for art, music, dance and drama to convey something of God's message should not be overlooked. Among my own congregation, the contribution from a young people's mime group sometimes "speaks" more forcibly than reading an obscure passage from St Paul.

Midway through its much-heralded Decade of Evangelism, it is high time for the Church to use the Bible more in accordance with our contemporary understanding of just what sort of book it is. Its Creation stories, for example, have more in common with poetic insight than scientific fact. Similarly, the Bible is not necessarily an accurate historical guide. Its description and interpretation of events are coloured by its theological presuppositions. The New Testament starts from the premise that Jesus is the Son of God, and the marvels attached to His birth, the miracles that characterise His ministry, and the mystery that surrounds His death and resurrection are all intended to impart life-giving faith in Him.

If the Bible as a whole is to impart such faith it needs to be read selectively, with intelligence and insight, rather than revered in a quasi-idolatrous fashion. In one church that I know, there is a circular stained-glass window depicting an open Bible highlighting the text: "The Word of the Lord endures for ever." I have no doubt that it does. However, it is a mistake to assume that the word is easily discerned on every page of scripture, or that it cannot be heard elsewhere.

☐ *Barry Overend is Vicar of St Chad's, Far Headingley, Leeds, and won The Times/ College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1995.*

THE TIMES

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READERS are invited to submit nominations or nominate themselves for The Times/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1996. The winner will be presented with a specially commissioned sculpture to be displayed in his or her church. Send the completed entry form below with a typed manuscript not exceeding 3,000 words to: The Preacher of the Year Award 1996. The College of Preachers, 81 North Road, Bourne, Lincs PR10 9BT (01778 422929), to arrive by March 31, 1996.

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Chechen fiasco tips electoral scales further against Yeltsin and his fat cats

By Dominic Lieven

COMMENTARY

IN ANY presidential election which was even half-free and half-fair, Boris Yeltsin would almost certainly lose. That was true before the latest crisis over Chechenia and it is even more so now.

Moreover, since Mr Yeltsin clearly sees his only chance of survival as the adoption of many of the nationalist, anti-liberal and anti-capitalist policies of his opponents, the West's stake in the Russian administration is becoming increasingly limited.

Many members of Mr Yeltsin's administration and some of the fat cats associated with it will have a hard time if the opposition comes to power. Communists or nationalists in the Kremlin will be neither willing nor able to restore socialism or greatly change the existing post-Communist distribution of property. The power of regional elites make much of the post-Communist "settlement" untouchable. But some interests — such as the gas lobby of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister — would be penalised, some property redistributed, and some spectacular examples might be made of prominent fat cats.

It would not be impossible to find excuses to postpone the June elections. Chechen terrorism could be one such. The constitutional court is largely sewn up in Mr Yeltsin's interest. It would be difficult to bring out large crowds on the streets of relatively prosperous Moscow against a Government which put off elections.

It remains probable that the elections will take place. The West — for example, the International Monetary Fund — would rightly see postponement as the harbinger of political instability, with an illegitimate, corrupt and divided regime forced to pander to irresponsible lobbies. Just possibly, the miners who helped to destroy Mikhail Gorbachev would do the same to a Yeltsin Government which called off elections.

Mr Yeltsin's advisers will be calculating that, if his health survives, he might scrape home in the summer's elections. It seems probable that the results of last month's elections were "cooked" in Moscow to a greater extent than the Western press imagines. In the summer the administration will pull out all the stops to repeat its success in an election which is more important to it than the selection of the rather powerless parliament.

In Russia's present mood, Grigori Yavlinsky, the leading light in the liberal camp, is unelectable. In the second and decisive round of presidential elections the liberal electorate will probably have little alternative but to vote for Mr Yeltsin or abstain.

Even without the further widening of the Chechen crisis, Mr Yeltsin would probably lose. If almost everywhere else in the former Soviet bloc elections have brought former Communists back into power, why should Russia be different? And why should the crucially important regional bosses risk their necks to "swing" the election on behalf of a President whose life expectancy seems limited?

Though Russia's present crisis is dangerous and sad, it is scarcely unexpected. For many reasons — the scale of the defence industry, vast inter-regional economic disparities and the number of one-factory towns — it was bound to take longer to reform the Russian economy than the smaller ones of East and Central Europe.

In one sense there has been a miracle in the former USSR during the past ten years. Notwithstanding the suffering in Chechenia, by the cataclysmic standards of other empires' collapses, the bloodshed unleashed by the almost overnight and unexpected demise of the Soviet Union has been astonishingly little.

The author is Professor of Russian Government at the London School of Economics

Moscow warned against turning back on reforms

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

AMERICAN REACTION

IN THE first sign of a hardening in American policy towards Moscow, a top member of the Clinton Administration said the United States may not support Russian membership of important Western organisations if the country turned its back on economic reform.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, offering a sobering assessment of recent events in Russia since President Yeltsin's damaging political setback in elections last month, said the country also risked losing assistance from the International Monetary Fund and other agencies.

"Russia's integration with the institutions of the West, which is in our mutual interest, depends on Russia's willingness to abide by international norms and to stay on the path of reform," Mr Christopher said in a foreign policy speech at Harvard.

"Recent events reflect troubling signs of Russian reform under strain ... Russia has not overcome the ruinous legacy of seven decades of communism, a legacy visible in the crime, corruption and poverty of that country."

Mr Christopher said he would deliver the warning to Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, when the two meet in Europe next month. It will include a cautionary message about other international economic groups such as the World Trade Organisation and the IMF.

Current negotiations for a crucial $9 billion Russian loan from the IMF are already said to be in trouble after the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister Anatoli Chubais, for four years the architect of economic reform. The international body is said to have been making similar depositions to Moscow that financial support must depend on the strength of a secure economic programme.

> ‘Russia has not overcome the ruinous legacy of communism — corruption and poverty’

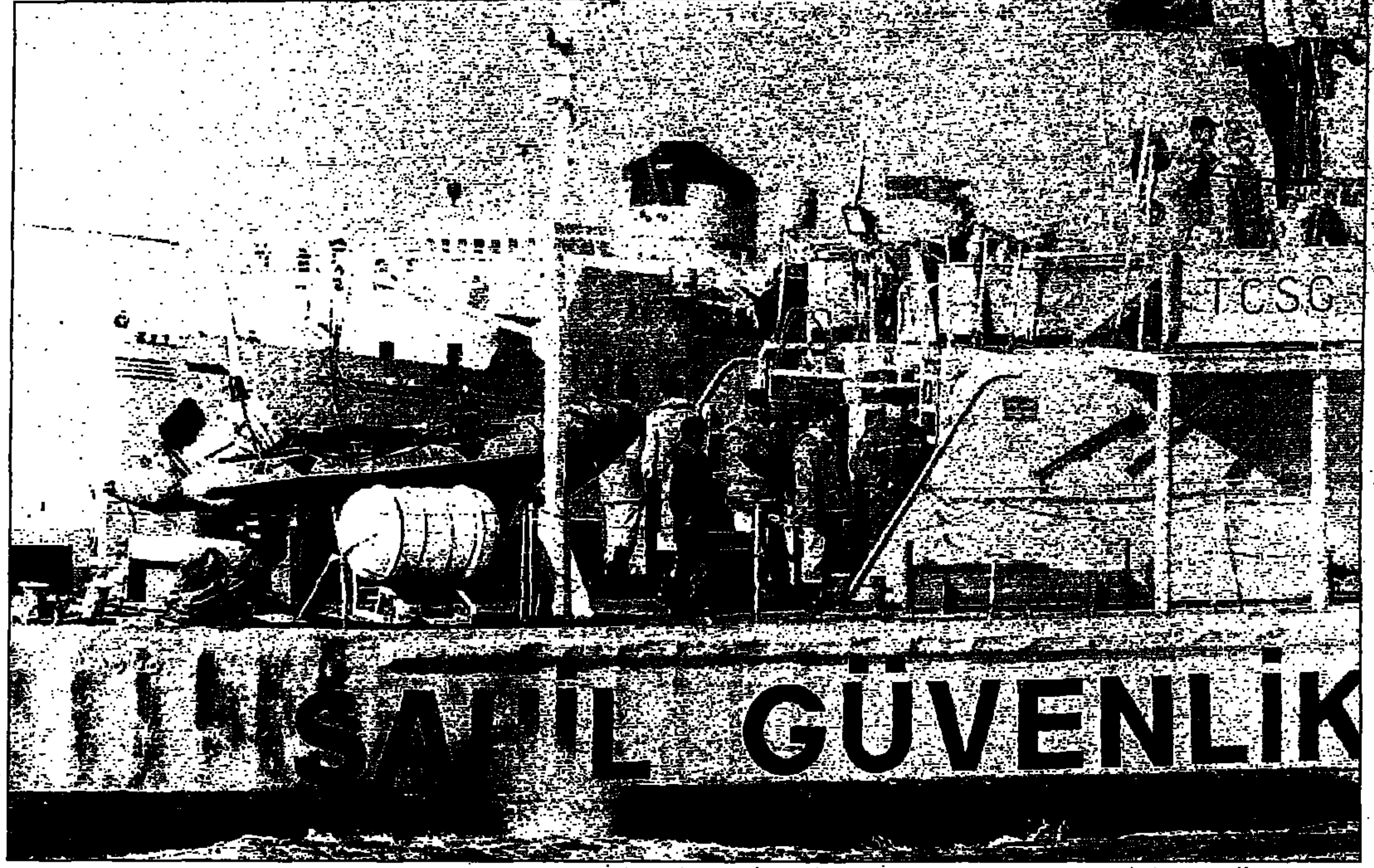
The clear message from Mr Christopher, however, that America would not support Russian membership of such organisations as the Group of Seven industrialised nations, an institution Moscow has been eager to join since the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev, brought a swift reaction from Mr Yeltsin yesterday. "Going back on reforms would be the ruin of Russia," he said.

The Clinton Administration, which has placed a premium on its support for Russian reforms, has watched in dismay as the last proponents of Western policy have vanished from Mr Yeltsin's inner circle. They include Andrei Kozyrev, the former Foreign Minister, Sergei Filatov, the chief of staff, and Mr Chubais.

Although there has been little public reaction, Washington has also been highly sceptical of Russian involvement in what US officials consider to be a Vietnam-style quagmire in Chechenia.

The State Department has been reviewing its policy towards Moscow since before the December elections when the Communist Party of Russia and ultra-nationalist forces under Vladimir Zhirinovsky won the largest two blocs of seats in the Duma.

The review, officials said yesterday, was assessing events in Russia and how America should position herself to deal with uncertainties in a still immensely powerful, if weakened, nation prior to its presidential elections in June.



Turkish Coast Guards keep watch over the *Avrasya* ferry at the mouth of the Bosphorus yesterday before the hijackers surrendered

Dejected troops tell of chaos in army command

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

MILITARY

THE bloody and protracted battle for Pervomaiskoye has showed up again the weaknesses of the Russian military in the Chechen war and suggests that it is in no state to defeat the secessionist guerrillas based in the hills.

President Yeltsin has put a positive spin on the operation, saying that he had delivered a "solid lesson" to the Chechens. But he admitted yesterday that about 100 rebels, including their leader, Salman Raduyev, known as the Lone Wolf, had got away.

The President said that 153 rebels had been killed and 30 captured. But he said that there had been about 300 men in all, thereby confirming reports that at least 100 fighters had managed to break out of Pervomaiskoye on Wednesday night. He also said that 82 hostages escaped, but the number originally in the village has never been established.

Military commentators say the fight showed up in microcosm all the problems facing the Russians: a determined and well-armed enemy, an army with desperately low morale and bad training, the use of sheer destructive force as a strategy and poor coordination between different branches of the armed forces.

"It's time for us to stop being surprised," said Dmitri Trenin, a military analyst with the Carnegie Institute in Moscow. "At the beginning of the war in Chechenia, maybe it was all unexpected, but now we have to accept that the Russian forces are what they are." Wounded soldiers who were interviewed in the daily *Izvestia* newspaper yesterday said that they were sent into battle unprepared and poorly fed. They were subordinate to three different ministries, all at odds with one another.

"The leadership was appallingly bad," complained Andrei, from Vityaz. "The artillery preparation was lousy, we had practically no armoured support. The army dawdled behind our backs. And they simply made cannon fodder of us."

Another soldier said that he was asked to fire an artillery piece without training. A third said that at one point an Interior Ministry unit and the Dagestani police ended up firing at each other and sustained losses.

The aftermath of the battle suggests that it would be almost impossible to defeat the rebels by military means. The separatists control roughly the southern mountainous third of the republic and move freely behind Russian lines. The war has died down since July when both sides signed a truce that is only sporadically observed.

Many of the thousands of regular army and Interior Ministry troops stationed in Chechenia freely admit that they have no will to fight on, and no trust in their commanders. The Chechen fighters number only a few thousand, but they give the impression of being completely devoted to the cause of independence from Moscow.

Unity plea for old Soviet empire

SECURITY

Moscow: President Yeltsin yesterday urged a summit here of the Commonwealth of Independent States to boost collective security to counterbalance Nato and to prevent unrest in the former Soviet republics.

A day after Russian troops ended a withering four-day assault on Chechen rebels in the village of Pervomaiskoye, Mr Yeltsin said that the 12 member nations of the CIS "acting individually cannot ensure their national security". He told his fellow CIS leaders: "We can do this through a system of collective security." The Russian President, who was unanimously re-elected chairman of the CIS leadership council, said Nato members, especially the United States, were "constantly strengthening their military capability". He urged the CIS to learn from other regional associations, especially the European Union. *(AFP)*

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Steve Forbes winning support on the election trail in New Hampshire

Steve Forbes is suddenly the agenda-setter in White House race

Free lunch recipe lures voters

*Robert Dole's main Republican ticket rival is a multi-millionaire with a Utopian vision. To hear his message **Martin Fletcher** went to Manchester, New Hampshire*

WHEN Steve Forbes, the super-rich publisher and Republican presidential candidate, arrived at a party for his supporters in Iowa last weekend nobody noticed him.

Mr Forbes's utter lack of "presence" and charisma had ceased to cause such problems by the time he flew into New Hampshire late this week. As he toured the Granite State, addressing one packed hall after another, he was pursued by a great scrum of reporters and cameramen clamouring for a glimpse of America's newest political phenomenon.

Polls showed that Mr Forbes, one of the more unlikely figures to seek the White House, had broken from the pack and become a distinct threat to the front-runner, Robert Dole. He was suddenly the agenda-setter, the target of bitter attacks from mortally eclipsed rivals, and the one hot commodity in a tepid field.

"I fully expect to get the nomination," Mr Forbes insisted during an interview with *The Times* in his van as he ended a 17-hour day. "If you look at what people thought we could do when we launched this thing 16 weeks ago, we have made remarkable progress, and that's a testament to my message of hope, growth and opportunity."

Mr Forbes is Clark Kent not Superman, a diffident 48-year-old boffin with thick glasses, a toothy grin and no small talk. He is an over-the-top left-hander, making autograph-signing a major operation.

Watching his speeches is even more painful. He talks in a grey monotone. Only his lips move. At moments of great passion one hand might rise 6in. from the podium and twitch.

It is hard to believe this is the son of Malcolm Forbes, the flamboyant balloonist, motorcyclist and Liz Taylor escort who threw a $2 million 70th birthday party in Tangier where 200 horsemen and 600 belly dancers entertained guests flown in by Concorde.

Steve Forbes neither drinks nor smokes and never tried marijuana. While Princeton colleagues demonstrated against Vietnam, he founded a business magazine. A good night out is visiting a bookshop near his New Jersey estate with his wife and five daughters.

Mr Forbes's message is indeed one reason for his rise. While his rivals — "root-canal Republicans" — all grimly preach deficit reduction, this multi-millionaire populist offers a Utopian vision of boundless growth and prosperity achieved through painless supply-side economics.

Replace the monstrous tax code with a single 17 per cent "flat tax", he says. Give the poor exemptions, but allow no deductions and no taxation of investment income. Free the people from stifling taxation and America will enjoy "the greatest economic boom in our history". The United States is still hobbled by debts from its 1980s experiment with this seductive free-lunch doctrine, but it still resonates.

Mr Forbes's rise is also propelled by media yearning for an exciting race, a lack of enthusiasm for Mr Dole, and a loathing of Washington that turns his awkwardness and political inexperience into virtues. "People are really tired of polished, practised, professional politicians," said Jerry Little, one of 300 who turned out in a pea-soup fog on Thursday night to hear and cheer Mr Forbes in the village of Epsom.

And then there is his wealth, an estimated $440 million, excluding a Fijian island, Normandy château, Moroccan palace and Battersea mansion. He has already spent $12 million on saturation advertising, attacking Mr Dole with commercials so vicious the most shameless professional politicians would hesitate to air them.

Mr Forbes is so rich that his Republican rivals, mere millionaires, have resorted to class warfare. His idea of hardship is "when the butler has a day off," the Dole camp sneers.

But many voters believe his wealth frees him from the corrupting clutch of donors, and he never flaunts it. He actually has no butler and his privacy-loving wife, Sabina, does the housework.

Mrs Forbes displays little enthusiasm for her husband's quixotic adventure, and there is much speculation about his motives. Some say he is seeking to escape his late father's shadow — Malcolm Forbes failed in politics. Others say he is generating publicity for *Forbes magazine*.

He does passionately believe in supply-side economics and nobody else would hoist that banner, but few believe he genuinely thinks he can win. There again, conventional wisdom considered his campaign stillborn.

Indulge in a fantasy. Mr Dole wins February's Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. All other Republicans save Mr Forbes soon drop out for lack of funds. The 73-year-old Senate leader is stricken before August's Republican convention, and Whitewater revelations then cripple President Clinton.

Would President Forbes, the bagpipe-playing grandson of a poor Aberdonian immigrant, restore the "special relationship"? "Absolutely," he chuckles.

Grisham plots case of the rail widow

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HIS courtroom tactics are, he admits, a little rusty, but on Monday the bestselling author John Grisham will return to his former occupation and stand humbly before a Mississippi judge.

Mr Grisham, the former provincial lawyer whose legal thrillers have brought global acclaim and a $40 million (£26 million) fortune, is returning to court one last time to defend the interests of a widow whose railwayman husband was crushed to death by a runaway goods train.

The painful death of John Wayne King on a lonely stretch of railroad in the South occurred before Mr Grisham became a name, and thrillers such as *The Firm* and *The Pelican Brief* hit bookstands around the world. Then he was just a Mississippi lawyer, and was grateful for the work when King's widow, Barbara Ann, presented herself at his office in Jackson and asked him to take the case.

Grisham: star attraction in brief return to the law

Four years on, the dispute has finally made it to court. The excitement at the Lincoln County courthouse in the small town of Brookhaven, where the case will be heard under the beady eye of Circuit Judge Keith Starrett of the 14th District, is all too evident. Mr Grisham's appearance has attracted television cameras, outside broadcast trucks and foreign reporters. Tickets for the public gallery are being distributed by draw, but are valid for only half a day. Each lunchtime, a new group of spectators will be allowed in to witness the celebrated mystery writer tackling a real case.

Mrs King claims that the Illinois Central Railroad Company, for which her husband worked for 19 years, owes her more than the letter of condolence and $100,000 in compensation. On the advice of her lawyer, Mrs King, who has three children, is claiming $700,000 in damages and a further $5 million for the pain her husband felt as he lay dying.

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Chirac decides to scrap hated military call-up

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S system of military conscription, which has furnished raw and often unwilling troops for the armed forces since the French Revolution in 1789, will be abolished during the next seven years in favour of a force made up of volunteers and professionals.

The plan, part of wide-ranging restructuring of the French armed forces, was disclosed yesterday by Pierre Messmer, the former Prime Minister, after a meeting last week with President Chirac.

Under the present law, all Frenchmen must perform ten months of military service, although many obtain long deferrals or work instead in developing countries and inner-city areas. Of the half million people who now make up the French armed forces, about 40 per cent are conscripts.

"The President confirmed to me ... that he has decided to abolish military service in its current form," M Messmer, France's Prime Minister in the early 1970s and Defence Minister in the 1960s, told the Europe 1 radio station.

"The need to have large numbers of troops has declined sharply," he said. "It is inevitable that military service would disappear sooner or later."

Conscription remains deeply unpopular with French voters and recent opinion polls show that 85 per cent believe that France needs a professional army on the British or American model.

M Chirac does not intend to abolish national service entirely, but plans to establish a new system allowing those who do not volunteer for military service to perform other types of civic service, M Messmer said.

"The President understands that national service, of which military service is only one part, must not be scrapped," M Messmer said.

During his election campaign, M Chirac pledged to abolish conscription within ten years, but the move represents a gamble by the Gaullist President. Creating a new structure of national service to absorb those unwilling to join the armed forces is a huge and expensive undertaking at a time when the Government is desperately seeking to reduce the public deficit. However, the alternative — simply allowing those who would have been forced into uniform to drift on to the job market — is equally unpalatable, given France's dire unemployment figures.

"Will the money and the political will be found to push this idea to its conclusion?" the weekly magazine *L'Evénement du Jeudi* asked.

Most of France's military bosses favour continuing conscription. Although only volunteers and professional units are sent on foreign missions, many fear that ending conscription will reduce France's military options while depriving thousands of youths of practical training and education opportunities.

Since the end of the Cold War, however, the system has been criticised as unnecessary and biased. Every year about 25,000 youths avoid military service. Some cite education or health reasons, while others opt to teach in the Third World or join the French auxiliary police.

According to critics, the majority of those who escape military service are from wealthy families which are able to pull strings on behalf of their sons.

Cancer doctor 'trapped'

Paris: François Mitterrand's doctor said yesterday that the late President had trapped him into lying about his cancer and promised to donate any profits from his banned book *Le Grand Secret* to charity. "In retrospect, I think François Mitterrand trapped me," Claude Gubler told *Le Monde*, saying he never expected that medical bulletins, which hid the cancer, would be signed with his name. "I wrote this book ... so another doctor will never be trapped in this way." He was also questioned by police about violating medical secrecy. *(Reuter)*

President Mandela leads King Zwelithini to talks yesterday with the Zulu chiefs

Zulu king moves to end Natal killings

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday announced that King Goodwill Zwelithini will convene a mass meeting of the Zulu nation within weeks in an attempt to stem the mounting violence which he said was turning KwaZulu/Natal into a ghost province.

"We must now concentrate all our energies to ensure that violence is stopped. I want to send a strong message of peace, that we cannot continue in this situation," Mr Mandela said after meeting the Zulu leader at his KwaKhangela Palace in the KwaZulu heartland. "Children cannot go to school, business is pulling out, it is becoming a ghost province."

The meeting between the President, the Zulu monarch and traditional chiefs was convened against a backdrop of 74 politically linked deaths in the province last month. Mr Mandela said the king would call an *imbizo* (traditional gathering) at which he would send a message of peace.

Animals at Pretoria Zoo drown

Johannesburg: More than 50 animals were drowned at Pretoria Zoo yesterday when a river burst its banks after nearly 200mm (8in) of rain fell in just two hours on the centre of the city in a thunderstorm, causing chaos (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Heavy rains swept away cars and caravans, submerged homes and damaged properties belonging to the British High Commission.

Many residents, bracing themselves for another downpour last night, believed the floods were the worst in the city's history. The weather bureau said that the previous highest one-day rainfall was 160mm in 1978.

Jacksons 'signed prenuptial deal'

New York: Legal experts speculating on the failed 20-month marriage of Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley said that the unhappy couple must have signed the "mother of all prenuptial agreements" (Quentin Letts writes). Each had too much to lose, financially and in terms of reputation. Raoul Felder, a voluble Manhattan divorce lawyer, told the *New York Post* there was "no question" about it. "The marriage was predestined to fail, so the pre-nup had to have a belt, suspenders and an iron girdle."

Thai monks to carry ID cards

Bangkok: Buddhist monks will have to carry official identification cards similar to those held by ordinary Thai citizens after the murder of a British tourist, Johanne Masheder, 23. A monk who had concealed a rape conviction is in custody after confessing to her murder. *(AP)*

Argentina may ban Madonna over film

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

MADONNA may be banned from Argentina today for sullying the name of the country's national heroine, Eva Perón, in a coming film.

Argentine protesters yesterday staged boisterous demonstrations in Buenos Aires against the pop singer and the film's British director, Alan Parker. The director was greeted by protesters burning Madonna dolls when he arrived in Buenos Aires to begin making his version of the hit Broadway musical, *Evita*.

Madonna, who is due to arrive today, will play the part of the legendary First Lady, who was seen as a champion of the poor and is still the centre of a personality cult in Argentina.

Argentinians see as offensive the choice of the raunchy American star, known for her erotic stage antics, to play the revered champion of workers and the downtrodden. It has stirred up so much national sentiment that a deputy of the ruling Peronist party has tabled a motion in the Congress, which will vote today on whether to declare the director and the star *persona non grata*.

"It is an attack on our history, offensive to our dignity, an attack on Peronists, a humiliating lie," said the deputy, Marta Rivadera, before presenting a resolution in the Congress. She called on the thousands of Argentinians who have lined up this week to audition for roles as extras in the film not to "prostitute themselves by selling themselves for $30 a day".

Graffiti have been sprayed on billboards lining the airport road to the capital, saying: "Viva Evita! Out With Madonna". More protests are expected to mark her arrival.

Leading article, page 21

THE TIMES

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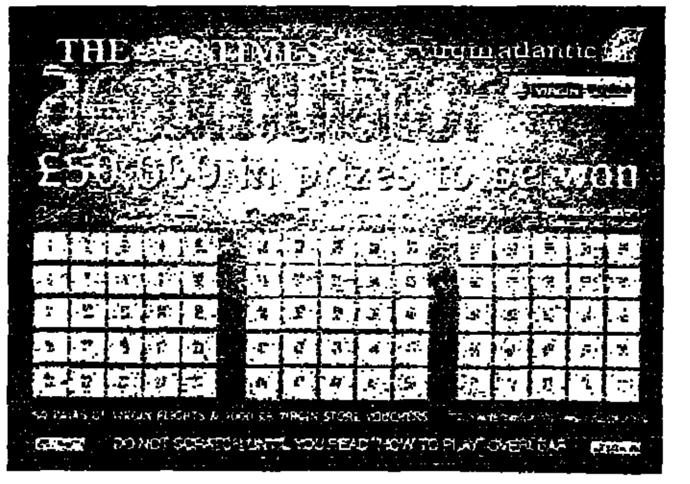
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Israel seals off West Bank to thwart terrorists

Hamas gunmen killed as election tension mounts

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TENSION gripped Israel, the West Bank and Gaza last night after three Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli troops and one Israeli soldier was wounded at an Israeli roadblock only hours before the opening of 1,600 polling stations today for the first Palestinian general election.

The incident, the most serious in the West Bank this year, came soon after Israel had closed off the occupied territories in an effort to minimise the danger of bloodshed during the historic poll which has been threatened by both Islamic and Jewish extremists opposed to the 1993 peace treaty between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The shooting took place outside Jenin, one of six Palestinian towns evacuated by Israeli troops to enable voting to take place. According to Israeli sources, gunmen in a car opened fire first at one of the soldiers manning the roadblock. His colleague then shot at the car, which did not stop. A Palestinian security official confirmed the three dead men were all members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which has called for a boycott of the poll.

Shortly before the shooting, security chiefs had presented Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, with a blueprint of measures being taken to try to prevent violence at the poll despite the many threats made against voters and the foreign observers who will try to ensure fair play.

A force of 4,000 extra police has been mobilised, most in east Jerusalem where right-wing Jewish settlers plan mass protests.

More than a million Palestinians have the right to vote in the poll which is also being boycotted by the main Muslim group, Islamic Jihad, and by hardline Palestinian nationalist organisations, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Georges Habash.

Palestinian officials describe the process as "the beginning of a new democratic chapter in the history of Palestine", while critics see the exercise supervised by 680 observers, including Jimmy Carter, the former American President, as the sanctification by ballot of the dictatorship of Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman and only serious candidate for the new role of Palestinian president.

"Not since the USSR's heyday has anyone abused the concept of democracy as cynically as the Palestinians are doing in the first political elections in their history," the right-wing *Jerusalem Post* said yesterday. "Methodically and thoroughly, the Palestinian Authority — Arafat and the Fatah officials surrounding him — have emptied the democratic system of all meaning." Mr Carter was more charitable. "I believe it will be an honest election — one more step in the process towards ultimate peace," according to the architect of the 1979 Camp David peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Although victory for Mr Arafat and his Fatah faction in the separate ballots for president and an 88-seat de facto parliament is a foregone conclusion, the size of the turnout is seen as crucial. Leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad have claimed that anything less than 50 per cent turnout will spell victory for the rejectionists.

The last opinion poll before campaigning ended on Thursday gave Mr Arafat more than 80 per cent of the vote compared with 7 per cent for Samiha Khalil, 72, the social worker and critic of the peace process who is opposing him. Some Palestinians have described her lacklustre campaign as little more than a figleaf to give the contest an appearance of genuine choice.

Colonel Gaddafi and President Mubarak stand to attention for their national anthems

Gaddafi dismisses Arab unity as 'dream'

Sidi Barrani, Egypt: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has said that Arab unity is a distant dream because some Arab rulers chose to serve the interests of Israel.

"It is difficult to clear the Arab atmosphere now because the enemy [Israel] has penetrated deeply into the Arab region and there are Arabs who are promoting the interests of these parties," the Libyan leader said. He made his remarks at a joint news conference after talks at a military base here with President Mubarak of Egypt, the first Arab state to sign a peace deal with Israel in 1979.

"There is enough to help the enemy and shake the Arab-Israeli equilibrium. How could we purify the Arab atmosphere in the wake of these circumstances? I see difficulty, even if this is considered pessimistic," he said.

Colonel Gaddafi, an opponent of the 1993 Palestinian-Israeli accord which he sees as a sham, added: "What is required is to resist the imminent danger which threatens the Arab nation." *(Reuter)*

Leakey warning of chaos

FROM SAM KILEY
IN NAIROBI

RICHARD LEAKEY, the leader of Kenya's opposition Safina party, said last night that the country was facing economic and social chaos after a spate of killings.

"We [opposition figures] are all being watched. Our phones are tapped and I take no risks when travelling around. The regime is perfectly capable of using violence to silence us permanently," said Dr Leakey, the conservationist and palaeoanthropologist who lost both legs in a "suspicious" plane crash in 1993.

Maina Kiai, the director of the national human rights commission, said: "Kenya's potential for violence has never been higher. We have seen an almost daily death toll from lynchings of suspects by members of the public, relentless detention and torture of opposition figures by the police, and an unprecedented politicisation of the judiciary ... as the [1997] elections approach, I am convinced that the levels of violence will spill on to the streets."

Once a haven of efficiency and safety amid chaos in neighbouring states, Kenya is now a country where the middle classes live behind barbed wire and employ armed guards.

Amnesty alert on boy lama

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

AMNESTY yesterday raised an international alarm over the six-year-old Tibetan boy selected by the Dalai Lama as the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest-ranking religious figure.

The human rights group said that Gendun Choekyi Nyima and his family, with Abbot Chadrel Rimpoche and 50 other monks from the Tashilumpo, the Panchen's monastery, have been missing for eight months.

Late last year the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the child, whom Peking had described as a dog drowner, "is where he is supposed to be". Last Tuesday a spokesman said "*the boy is in sound health*", but declined to disclose his whereabouts.

The missing boy had been designated the eleventh Panchen Lama last spring by a search committee approved by the Dalai Lama, but soon Abbot Chadrel, who had supervised the search, was denounced by the authorities. By July he had disappeared.

In November, Peking presided over its own ritual to choose a "soul boy". Last week China's choice, Gyaincain Norbu, aged six, was introduced in Peking to President Jiang Zemin.

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French collaborators' regime in the dock as former Cabinet minister faces Holocaust show trial

Lawyer fights Vichy war

BORDEAUX FILE
by BEN MACINTYRE

GÉRARD BOULANGER is fighting France's last battle of the Second World War.

For 15 years, the extrovert Bordeaux barrister has been on the trail of Maurice Papon, a former official in the collaborationist Vichy regime, who is alleged to have been responsible for the deportation of 1,690 Jews from the Bordeaux area, including more than 200 children, between 1942 and 1944. Only a handful survived the Nazi concentration camps.

M Papon went on to become the Paris police chief in 1958, an MP, a Cabinet minister under President Giscard d'Estaing and holder of the coveted Légion d'honneur. He is now 85, the last surviving senior Vichy official suspected of complicity in the Holocaust.

In 1983 Maître Boulanger first filed suit against M Papon, on behalf of 26 death-camp survivors and their relatives, for "crimes against humanity".

The case moved agonisingly slowly and many believed that the ageing bureaucrat would die before a trial could take place. In September 1994, President Mitterrand, himself a former Vichy official, admitted that he had deliberately put the brakes on legal action against M Papon in the interests of preserving "civil peace".

However, M Papon has outlived his protectors, and after the election of Jacques Chirac last year the wheels suddenly began to turn at speed. The Bordeaux prosecutor-general has now completed a 182-page indictment of M Papon, alleging that as secretary-general of the Gironde region in 1942, with responsibility for "Jewish affairs", he played an active role in rounding up Jews.

In March a panel of judges will decide formal charges, paving the way for a show trial that Maître Boulanger insists is more than 50 years overdue.

"It is not just Papon who will go on trial, but the entire Vichy Government," the lawyer said last week. "He can't get away now," he added, opening a cabinet to reveal 50,000 neatly filed documents, the fruits of a historical manhunt that has become a personal obsession.

In 1994 Maître Boulanger published a blistering biography entitled *Maurice Papon: A French Technocrat During the Collaboration*. M Papon promptly sued his nemesis for defamation but a court ruled, to the lawyer's delight, that no verdict could be given on the case until M Papon had himself been tried.

For Maître Boulanger, M Papon represents the Vichy civil servant "par excellence", efficient, ambitious and unquestioning. "He was more interested in the State than the Republic ... we are talking not about anti-Semitism by ideology, but anti-Semitism through indifference," he said.

M Papon's bureaucratic talents were reflected in his meteoric career after the war, but his meticulousness also proved his undoing. He never misfiled a memo, and in 1981 a cache of documents dating from the Vichy years and written in his spidery hand was discovered in a Bordeaux attic. A scandal erupted, M Papon retired from politics, and Maître Boulanger found his mission.

Gérard Boulanger, who has been on the trail of Maurice Papon for 15 years

Chocolate with bitter message

SOME of the worst of last month's industrial unrest took place in Bordeaux, where Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is Mayor. Returning to his mayoral fiefdom at the height of the strikes, M Juppé had the unwelcome experience of seeing himself burnt in effigy by a crowd of angry demonstrators.

Now, however, "Antoine", the most famous chocolatier in a city renowned for its bonbons, has come up with a special chocolate in honour of the Mayor, christened "La Juppette". M Juppé, desperate to prove he has a sense of humour, was only too happy to lend his name to the delicacy. But the compliment is back-handed, since the "Juppettes" (which also means mini-skirts) was the nickname given to the 12 female ministers in his first Cabinet — most of whom were sacked last November, provoking outrage among feminists and further damaging his popularity.

Time called for claret diplomacy

THE United States consulate in Bordeaux, America's oldest diplomatic outpost, will close its doors for ever this month, a victim of federal budget cuts and the changing palates of US wine buffs.

The consulate was opened in 1790, the year after the French Revolution, with the appointment as Consul-General of Joseph Fenwick, an American wine merchant who had lived in the great French port for many years.

The economic contacts between Bordeaux and the fledgeling American republic were crucial to both countries: from here the Marquis de Lafayette had set sail to join George Washington and many of the provisions for the American troops were exported through Bordeaux.

But over the years the links, and in particular America's taste for the great wines of Bordeaux, have slowly diminished in importance. Britain remains the second-largest importer of Bordeaux wines (after Belgium) while the United States has dropped to sixth place. American consumption of French wine reached a peak in the mid-1980s, but has since tailed off as the taste for domestic wines has grown.

At the American consulate this week, a magnificent edifice in the heart of Bordeaux, staff were sadly packing up the Stars and Stripes and rinsing out the wine glasses as a vintage diplomatic relationship was finally put into storage.

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Germany honours dead of Auschwitz

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PRESIDENT HERZOG yesterday urged his fellow Germans to remember the lessons of Auschwitz and to stamp out racist attitudes among the younger generation. His speech was intended to commemorate the liberation of the concentration camp, which has been declared a national day of memorial, but it took on a contemporary resonance yesterday after the fire that destroyed a foreigners' hostel in Lübeck.

His words took up the call of President Weizman of Israel, who earlier this week warned the Germans to be on their guard against neo-Nazis.

"The most important thing is to sharpen the focus of the young generation, so that they are better able to identify racism and totalitarianism in its early stages," he said. "In the battle against this fundamental evil of the twentieth century, it is absolutely critical to mount a timely resistance."

After his speech, Herr Herzog was handed the so-called Death Books, which record the names and numbers of tens of thousands of victims of Auschwitz.

The ceremony capped years of searching for documentation from the camp. Largely funded by the Germans, academic researchers have trawled KGB archives and used computer techniques to collate many sources, such as the report on extraction of gold teeth from corpses, the penalty register, the roll and death certificates, in order to publish volumes listing the names of 69,000 victims.

That is still only a fraction of the total death toll. More than 400,000 people were registered as camp inmates and about half of them died. More than one million Jews deported from Nazi-occupied countries of Europe were never registered by name, alive or dead. In the adjacent camp of Birkenau they were immediately selected at the train ramp for the gas chambers. But, as the publisher Dr Klaus Gerhard Saur points out, the mere printing of the names represents a landmark.

"In many cases it is the first time that these people's names have been published — they have lost their anonymity." The books, which Dr Saur believes will be bought mainly by libraries, are also a solid response to far-right revisionist historians who claim that the numbers of those killed in the Holocaust have been exaggerated or manipulated.

Only a few of the Death Books have survived. Their mere existence was testimony to the blinkered thoroughness of the SS administration, which wanted a precise record of fatalities, and to its deceit, since the cause of death was almost always faked. The volume of paperwork at Auschwitz was enormous. The sick-bay office produced eight copies of the initial death report, the camp headquarters issued four copies containing personal data, the doctors produced four copies of a concise medical history, four copies of a medical affidavit were also issued, as was a single death certificate. If death was not from "natural causes", the documentation had to be supplemented by six copies of a post mortem report and six copies of a forensic autopsy protocol.

Tadeusz Paczumla, a former inmate working as a clerk, remembers that the camp administration often had to document 600 dead every day. Much of the documentation was destroyed by the SS during the evacuation of the camp in January 1945. Most of the surviving Death Books have been in Russian hands since they liberated the camp: 46 have been kept in Moscow. The books are published in German, English and Polish. (*Death Books from Auschwitz*, Vols 1-3, Saur Verlag, Munich).

Herzog examining the Death Books yesterday

Lübeck youths freed

BY ROGER BOYES

THREE youths held in connection with the fire that killed at least ten people at a foreigners' hostel in Lübeck were released without charge yesterday.

German police said that the case was still wide open, adding: "We cannot rule out politically motivated arson but neither can we exclude a technical failure."

They were also unable to enter the shell of the building to gather evidence, as the house is still too hot and there is a danger of collapse. Firefighters on ladders probed with long poles through the upper floor's charred windows yesterday, searching for victims who may be buried under smouldering rubble.

There are fears that a large family who usually lived in the attic had been trapped. Firefighters said any people inside the flat could not have survived.

Police confusion was reflected among the many hundreds who came to the house yesterday with candles and flowers. They were unsure whether to protest against racism — if neo-Nazis did start the fire it would be the worse such attack since the Second World War — or simply to mourn.

Bosnia factions meet new deadline

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

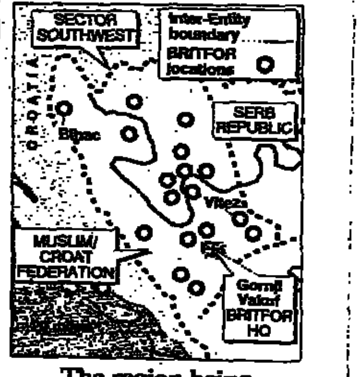
THE FORMER warring sides in Bosnia were obeying a deadline to pull back from ceasefire positions yesterday, meeting a key requirement of the peace agreement reached in Dayton, Ohio.

General Martin Walker, commander of Nato's peacekeeping ground forces, inspected frontline bunkers in Sarajevo that had been abandoned well before the midnight (11pm London time) deadline: "This is a microcosm of what is happening all along the confrontation line," he said.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord laid down that Bosnian government, Serb and Croat forces should withdraw two kilometres from either side of the frontline by January 19. A Nato spokesman, Simon Haselock, said: "We won't have a final answer for a day or two but we expect to find the parties in substantial compliance on the issue of the pullback."

Some 50 heavy weapons were still inside what will become a 1,000km (625 mile) long separation zone, but Nato appeared unflustered. "It's a planned and phased withdrawal," a source said. "They have until midnight tonight."

Verification by Nato ground and air forces will be completed today. The alliance also expected to see the sides exchange some prisoners of war by the deadline.



The region being policed by Britain

Cutbacks shrink Galeries Lafayette

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE TOP Paris department store, Galeries Lafayette, a French institution since 1912, has become the latest casualty of the capital's *annus horribilus* of bomb scares, strikes and demonstrations.

A disastrous last quarter has forced the chain, the French equivalent of Harrods, to announce the closure of five stores — in Lyons, Valence, Avignon, Nevers and Dreux. It will lay off 1,000 employees, 150 in Paris. The flagship store in the capital stays open.

The strike has taken an enormous toll: businesses are believed to have lost more than Fr20 billion (£2.6 billion) and 100,000 jobs while department stores alone suffered estimated losses of Fr480 million. In the summer, the crowds that surge under the blue-and-gold dome of Galeries Lafayette's stained glass Art Nouveau ceiling dwindled as thousands stayed away, fearing a city that had become the target of militant Islamic bombers.

Despite late-night and Sunday openings in an attempt to recuperate losses, the store's elegant and perfumed halls were almost empty in the crucial Christmas run-up. The centre was paralysed by demonstrations and traffic gridlock because of the capital's worst transport strike in almost 30 years. Even the weather did not help: an Indian summer meant autumn sales of winter clothing made a slow start.

The troubled chain is already in Fr2.7 billion debt, due largely to its 1991 takeover of Nouvelles Galeries. Financial problems were compounded when a campaign to become an international retailing powerhouse proved a fiasco. Its US store, in Trump Tower on New York's Fifth Avenue, was forced to shut in 1994, having lost Fr232 million in four years.

The chain reported Fr282 million losses in the first six-month period of last year and is expected to finish the year in the red. Planned company restructuring, announced in June by the president, Georges Meyer, has been brought forward and is more severe than predicted.

Strikes aside, many retail experts believe department stores are becoming outdated and will have to change to survive in the hypermarket age. Disgruntled employees in provincial Galeries Lafayette branches point to marketing errors, such as overpriced merchandise, as another reason for the problems. "The concept of the big store is losing ground throughout Europe, even if chains like Marks & Spencer are managing to acquit themselves well," one French retail analyst said in yesterday's *Libération*.

In contrast, Marks & Spencer is enjoying such huge success that it recently opened three stores in greater Paris. It plans one in Bordeaux and another in a Paris suburb.

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■ OPINION

Thank heaven for amateurs: the professionals may be in turmoil but the bands will play on

■ FESTIVAL

They are geared up for culture as well: Atlanta prepares an Olympian feast of the arts

THE TIMES ARTS

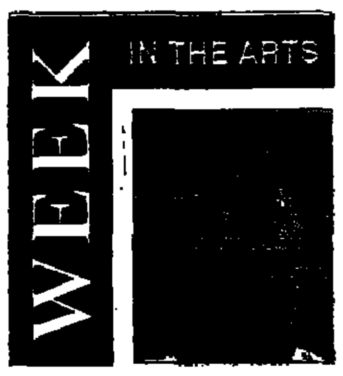
■ VIDEOS

First Knight and other new video and CD releases, reviewed in Weekend, page 14

■ ON MONDAY

Reviews of Andrew Davis conducting Charles Ives, plus ENO's *Magic Flute* and Björk on tour

Remember it's all about having fun



RICHARD MORRISON

Look at the broader picture! That's easy to say but hard to do. I was guilty of wearing blinkers three weeks ago when I looked back at the 1995 arts scene. My grandiose summary was flawed, I now realise, in two respects. First, I ignored something that accounts for 95 per cent of all cultural activity. Whoops. Secondly, I didn't even realise that I was doing it.

Luckily — or to put it another way, unluckily — several irritatingly clever readers wrote, with ill-mannered glee, to point out my deficiencies. Thanks, chaps. In the final words of John Osborne's *The Entertainer*: "Let me know where you're working tomorrow night — and I'll come and see *you*".

What had I ignored? Only one awesomely evocative word: amateurs. I had overlooked Britain's choirs, thousands of them. Its tartan army of Scottish reelers. Its closet watercolourists and its puffing *euphoniumists*. *Its teenage* would-be Blurs, and its busty soubrettes vying to be Yum-Yum in the local *Mikado*. Its model-makers, ballroom dancers, campanologists, origamists, *village-hall* thespians, karaoke champions, barbershoppers, potters, poets . . .

How could I have forgotten this huge hinterland of do-it-yourself culture? I can only plead that I was *not alone. Think back to the* uproar created by the arts lobby when a £5 million cut in the Arts Council grant was announced. "A killer-blow to cultural life," said one commentator, and the rest mostly nodded agreement. Well, it *was* bad news for people who earn their living in the subsidised arts, but that is not quite the same thing. The vast majority of Britain's performers — the amateurs — carried on as before.

"*Ah, but they are not the people* who provide the quality," say the professional lobbyists. "We need our Covent Gardens, the beacons of excellence." If I had a million *quid for every time this argument* had appeared over the past fortnight I could almost pay Pavarotti's pasta bill by myself.

Let us overlook the uncomfortable truth that highly subsidised *"beacons of excellence" sometimes* produce pretty shoddy shows, and the happier truth that there is excellence among amateurs too: great brass bands, stirring choral societies, astonishing youth orchestras, audacious student drama companies. Let us accept that this "beacons of excellence" contention is true. Even so, there is a counter-argument which says that participation in art will always be more rewarding than observation. *To adapt the charity slogan: buy* a man an opera ticket and you amuse him for an evening (if you are lucky); teach him to sing and you inspire him for life.

That needs to be said again and again, because so much of what passes for cultural life is geared towards brainwashing the public into accepting a role as passive consumers. The *film, TV and* music businesses employ armies of propagandists for that purpose. But then, they have a living to make. More worrying is the craven attitude of governments, *heritage ministers,* arts councils: they seem not to question the notion that, for most people, the arts should be something you watch, not do.

Arts journalists are equally guilty: we devote much space to discussion of the tiniest details of professional artistic life, yet often ignore changes in the amateur or educational world that affect millions. We miss the *broader picture.*

All this contributes to the coarsening of cultural awareness. If you play an instrument you empathise far more fully with the furious *instrumental drama of, say,* a Mahler symphony than if you have no notion of what heroic efforts are involved. If you have hammed through *An Inspector Calls* in a village hall, then you really appreciate Daldry's sophisticated production. One great advantage of a thriving amateur arts scene could be to create a large, supportive and knowledgeable audience for the professionals. But that's not likely to happen while many professionals appear to despise amateurs.

There are difficulties in the amateur world. Some superb brass bands have been disrupted by the demise of heavy-industry *communities.* Choral *singing* has all but collapsed in its traditional strongholds: church and school. On the other hand, the last decade *has seen the emergence of what is* virtually a new art-form, though it has its roots in medieval mystery-plays: "community" projects that involve both professionals and amateurs. Such initiatives build a *bridge of goodwill over the great* divide. And goodwill is what has been notably lacking in the public's response to the "arts funding crisis".

There is one other gift that amateurs can bring. It's called enjoyment. Remember that? It's what music-making, acting or painting is supposed to be all about, give or take the odd profound subtext. The professional world seems to have forgotten, so relentless is the grind to safeguard subsidies or market the next show. Amateurs' remind us that art is fun, not a grim war of attrition. *That,* surely, is the broader picture. I am sorry that I *missed* it the first time. We got there in the end.

Ringing a loud Southern bell

Atlanta is using the Olympic stage to mount a cultural revival in the South, says **Michael Henderson**

As the world's athletes await the Olympic Games in Atlanta later this year, the host city is preparing to win some gold medals of its own. During the two-month Olympic Arts Festival which begins on June 1, the "capital of the South" intends to reshape the image of city, state and region. According to Jeff Babcock, the director of the Cultural Olympiad, which has been running for the past four years, "it is an *important platform to present* and explain Southern culture in 1996".

If this sounds a bit pushy, this adopted Southerner does not deny it. The South in general, and Atlanta in particular, is eager to slough off the impression of good ol' boys, however misguided that may be, and plant instead the seeds of a more vigorous future.

The festival will feature more than 200 performances at 30 venues from, inter alia, 14 theatre companies and 12 dance groups. Among the British representatives are the Royal National Theatre and the Leeds-based Phoenix Dance Company.

In addition, there are 25 exhibitions, many seeking to explain Southern history and culture to the outside world — and, one feels, to *the South itself.*

To European eyes some of it — the bluegrass festival, for instance — may appear a *provincial* knees-up. But it would be muddle-headed to underestimate the enthusiasm of the team led by Babcock, whose extensive experience in music and arts administration includes co-founding the New World Symphony Orchestra with the conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.

> ‘The South is still stereotyped, even in the South itself’

"We are approaching the end of the 20th century," he says, "and one of the ways in which the South suffers is that it is still stereotyped within our own country and even, in some ways, within the South itself. As one who has come here from working in other parts of the country, I was not aware of what an extraordinary part of America it is.

"Southern culture is the most diverse and perhaps the most multifaceted part of America. This is the birthplace of American music and that is the greatest American export. This area is very rich and fascinating with its collisions of cultures."

They are not thinking small. Last year nine Nobel literature laureates, including Derek Walcott and Joseph Brodsky, gathered in Atlanta for a week of readings and discussions. Over the past year there has been a film programme to mark 100 years of cinema.

There is an impressive civic home for the city's arts groups, the Woodruff Centre, where the Atlanta Symphony (which will play six concerts as part of the festival, two of them with Jessye Norman, a native of Augusta) is developing an excellent reputation. The centre, roughly comparable with London's Barbican, also houses the Alliance Theatre Company.

In the words of its music director, Yoel Levi, the ASO is "the hottest orchestra in America" and, once the usual allowances have been made for *local pride,* it is undeniably a band that is making a healthy reputation.

"It is not often in life that you have the chance to do something important like this," Levi says. In a city where Shostakovich is still something of a novelty, his point is well made.

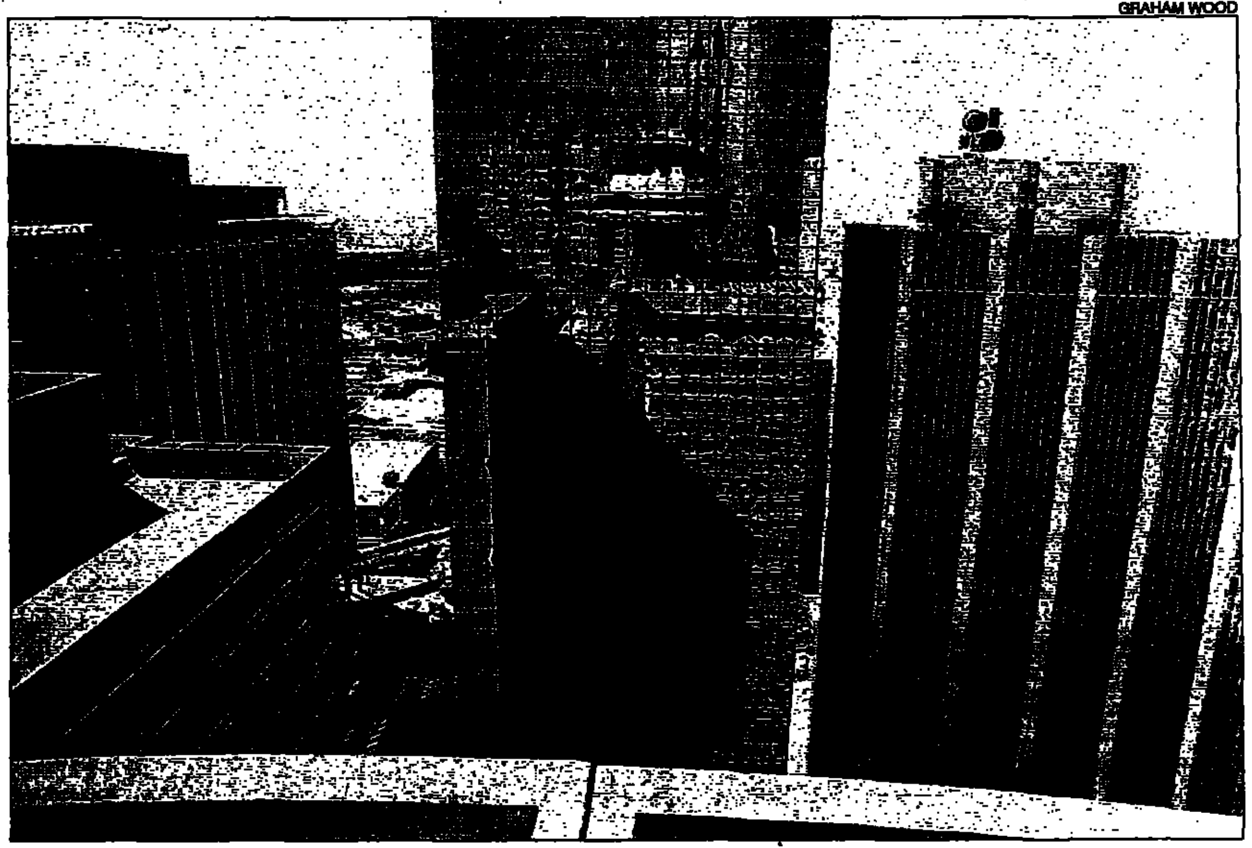
As for British involvement, Tony Cragg, the German-based sculptor, is responsible for the festival's most obvious landmark, a 25ft high work, resembling an athlete with a ball, constructed from 130 aluminium, doll-like "puppets". Cragg *calls it* "a work with figuration on the theme of a world united, a global event".

Atlantans have got used to the gibes of their countrymen. "People have talked about the 'Bubba Games'," Babcock says. ("Bubba" is a mild American insult, like "bumpkin" in England.) "Atlanta is a centre for telecommunications, businesses are relocating here and it is an exciting place to be right now. Yet the idea that it is a backwater is still in the back of people's minds.

"People here have a great sense of place and there is a good deal more to them than meets the eye. There is a sense of where people have come from and it is an important part of our mission to show the best of the region to the world.

"The festival is a quilt of many colours. The aim is not to make dollars but to rethink the long-term strategy for the arts in Atlanta and to position ourselves for the next ten years."

GRAHAM WOOD



Georgia on our minds: Atlanta will host the Olympic Arts Festival, an attempt to redefine the image of the South

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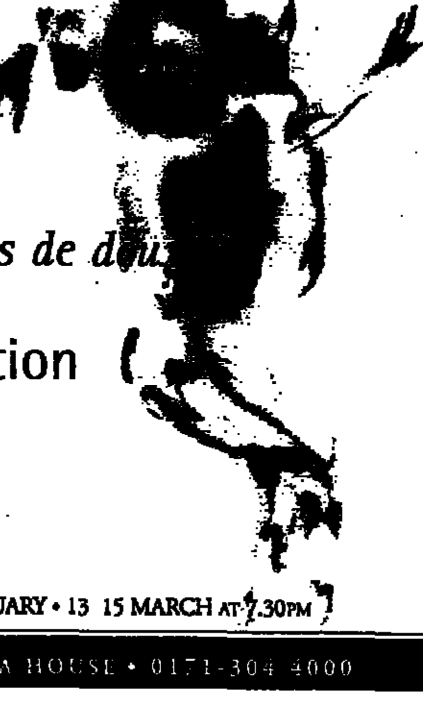

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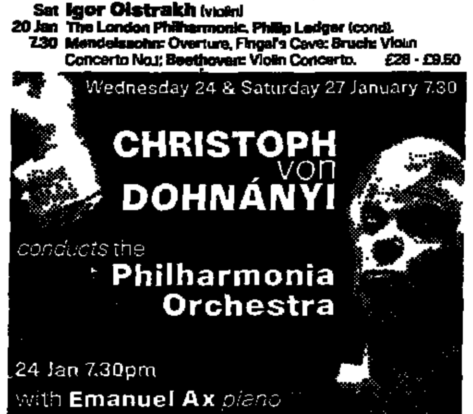

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Thursday 25 January 7.30pm
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Tue 23 Jan 7.45 **Bang On A Can All-Stars** A Night of Industrial Revolution. The All-Stars combine with three of New York's most exciting younger composers - David Lang, Julia Wolfe & Michael Gordon. £10, £7.50

24, 26, 28, 30 Jan, 1, 2 Feb **Emerson String Quartet** The Complete Beethoven String Quartets. Contact Box Office for further details. £15, £12, £9, £6

Thu 25 Jan 7.45 **London Sinfonietta Explorations 96** Oliver Knussen (cond). Premieres of new works by: Michael Gandolfi; Luminita Spinu; Richard Causton; Karen Merkham; Ronald Ford. £10, £8

Saturday 27 January 7.00 pm

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Sun 21 Jan 4.00pm NB: time	**VIENNA & THE ROMANTIC CENTURY** The Nash Ensemble Wolfgang Holzmair baritone. Berg: Adagio; Mahler: Rückert Lieder (arr. David Matthews); Strauss: *Till Eulenspiegel* arranged as a frolic by Franz Hasenöhrl; Schubert: Piano Quintet in A D667 *The Trout* £14, £12, £9, £6 Nash Concert Society
Mon 22 Jan 7.30pm	**THE KING'S CONSORT** Early Music & Baroque Series R. King dir; Deborah York sop; James Bowman c'tenor; C. Steele-Perkins tpt; A.Scarlatti: O di Betlemme altera; Su le sponde del Tebro; Hasse: Salve Regina; D.Scarlatti: Salve Regina £12.50, £10 (all others sold) Sponsors: Field Fisher Waterhouse
Tues 23 Jan 7.30pm	**ALEXEI LUBIMOV** piano Piano Recital Series Schubert: 3 Impromptus D899; 2 Impromptus D935 Brahms: Fantasias Op.116; 6 Pieces Op.118 £14, £12, £9, £6 Wigmore Hall/Van Walsum Management
Wed 24 Jan 6.00pm NB: time	Janice Watson sop; Sally Burgess mezzo sop; Lynton Atkinson ten; Peter Coleman-Wright bar; Julius Drake, Malcolm Martineau pno; **BRITTEN SONGS**: Friday Afternoons; Others songs incl. Fancie, Lone Dog, 2 Ballades, A Cradle Song etc; Schumann: Spanische Liebeslieder Op.138 All seats £7
Wed 24 Jan 8.00pm NB: time	**IAN BOSTRIDGE** tenor; **JULIUS DRAKE** piano The Britten Songs Britten: Um Mitternacht; Winter Words Op.52 Schubert: Winterreise (original version); 4 Goethe Lieder The Britten Estate Ltd/BBC Radio 3 £14, £12 (only) Eve. Spons:Grosvenor Square Properties plc
Thurs 25 Jan 7.30pm	**BORODIN STRING QUARTET** Gramophone Awards Winners Tchaikovsky: Quartet in F Op.22; Schumann: Quartet in A Op.41 No.3; Schubert: Quartettsatz in C minor D703 £16 (all others sold) Wigmore Hall/Van Walsum Civic Concert in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Westminster
Fri 26 Jan 7.30pm	**NIKOLAI LUGANSKY** piano Terence Judd Award Recital 1994 Tchaikovsky Competition Winner. Beethoven: Sonata in D minor Op.31 No.2 *Tempest*; Rachmaninov: 6 Preludes; Scriabin: Second Sonata Op.19; Prokofiev: Sonata No.6 Op.82 £12, £10, £8, £6 Hallé Concerts Society/Kantor Concert Mgt
Sat 27 Jan 7.30pm	**BORODIN STRING QUARTET** Chamber Music Season Borodin: Quartet No.1 in A (1877-9) Rachmaninov: Romance; Prokofiev: Quartet No.1 Op.50 Janáček: Quartet No.1 *Kreutzer Sonata* (1923) £18, £15 (all others sold) Wigmore Hall/Van Walsum

Barbican Centre

Sat 20 Jan 5.30pm

Charles Ives - The Unanswered Question
London Sinfonietta Oliver Knussen *conductor*
Ives Scherzo: Over the Pavements; Tone Roads I and III; Scherzo: All the Way Round and Back; Theatre Orchestra Set, The Gong on the Hook and Ladder, Three Places in New England (Chamber version) All seats £10 unreserved, £5 concs.

Sat 20 Jan 8.00pm

Charles Ives - The Unanswered Question
BBC Symphony Orchestra Andrew Davis *conductor*
BBC Singers, Duke Quartet
Stephen Cleobury *conductor* **Ives** Celestial Country;* 2nd Orchestral Set; Symphony No 3; Central Park in the Dark
All seats £10 unreserved, £5 concs. Sponsored by LandRover

Sun 21 Jan 4.30pm

Charles Ives - The Unanswered Question
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Dawn Upshaw *soprano* **Thomas Hampson** *baritone*
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A recital of Charles Ives songs
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Sun 21 Jan 7.30pm

Charles Ives - The Unanswered Question
BBC Symphony Orchestra Andrew Davis *conductor*
BBC Symphony Chorus, Stephen Jackson *conductor*
Ives Harvest Home Chorales, Symphony No 2, General William Booth, Symphony No 4
All seats £10 unreserved, £5 concs. Sponsored by Land Rover

Tues 23 Jan 7.30pm

Bach ***Magnificat*** **& Vivaldi** ***Gloria***
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Wed 24 Jan 7.30pm

London Symphony Orchestra
Bruckner Mozart Series
Sir Colin Davis *conductor* **Mitsuko Uchida** *piano*
Mozart Piano Concerto No 18, K456
Bruckner Symphony No 6 in A
Tickets £6 - £30 In association with the Sunday Times and supported by BBC Music Magazine

Thu 25 Jan 7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra
Yan Pascal Tortelier *conductor* **Ida Haendel** *violin*
Chabrier Suite Pastorale **Debussy** Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune **Chausson** Poème for violin and orchestra
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Fri 26 Jan 7.30pm

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Sir Charles Mackerras *conductor* **Felicity Lott** *soprano*
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Pavane Pour Une Infante Défunte, La Valse
Poulenc La Voix Humaine
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Sun 28 Jan 7.30pm

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC
The welcome return to the Barbican by the London Philharmonic

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Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture, *Fingal's Cave*
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Beethoven Symphony No 6, *Pastoral*
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Mon 29 Jan 7.30pm

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Stravinsky The Rite of Spring

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Sat 10 Feb 8.00pm

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Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice.
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Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, **Ravel** Bolero.
Tchaikovsky Swan Lake Suite.
Elgar Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1
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THEATRES

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THEATRES

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THEATRES

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MOZART BIRTHDAY CONCERT
SYMPHONY NO.1 IN E FLAT MAJOR, K.16
PIANO CONCERTO NO. 20 IN D MAJOR, K.466
SINFONIA CONCERTANTE IN E FLAT MAJOR, K.364
SYMPHONY NO.41 IN C MAJOR, K.551 'THE JUPITER'
Conducted by Shuntaro Sato
Ursula Gough *Violin*
Ian Rathbone *Viola*
Ashan Peiris *Piano*

Sunday 4 February
THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN STORY
Naomi Harvey (*English National Opera*)
Patrick Leonard, John Ayldon
Barry Clark (*D'Oyly Carte Opera*)
Martin McEvoy (*Crystal Clear Opera*)
Patrick Healy *Piano*

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CRYSTAL CLEAR OPERA
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Sunday 11 February
CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Tue 13 - Sat 17 February
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JASON BEDDINGTON, ANDREW LANCEL
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Sunday 18 February
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Tue 20 - Sat 24 February
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Sunday 25 February
ACKER BILK & HIS PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND

Mon 26 February - Sat 2 March
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Sunday 3 March
BRANDENBURG CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
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Robert Porter *Bassoon*

Tue 5 - Sat 9 March
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THE EXPLOSIVE TAP SENSATION

Sunday 10 March
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CONFUSIONS
by ALAN AYCKBOURN

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THEATRES

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AMBASSADORS 836 6111/420 0100/344 4444 **LAST 2 WEEKS** TRAINSPOTTING Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel "Feverishly Funny" Guardian Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000 Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15 **"Magnificent"** F T **JENNY SEAGROVE** **"Impeccable"** Times DEAD GUILTY **'Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER' S.Times RECORD-BREAKING RUN EXTENDED TO MARCH 16** **HAYLEY MILLS**

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of** STARLIGHT EXPRESS **"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT"** Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 0171 416 6066 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) **"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER"** Gdn **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** starring **PHILLIP SCHOFIELD** **FEB 22 - APR 20**

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/344 4444 Grps 413 3321/312 1970/494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL **"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH"** Mail On Sunday **"BREATHTAKING"** Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee) ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS** Directed by Sam Mendes Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON

CRITERION 369 1747/344 4444/420 0000 **JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT** RUPERT STREET **LONELY HEARTS CLUB** **"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic"** D Mail Tues Sat 8 Sat 4 Sun 3 & 7 **"NB 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7"** 100 BEST SEATS £10 ON DOOR DAILY 1hr BEFORE PERF LAST TWO WEEKS

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hrs/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 TOMMY **PAUL KEATING** **As Tommy** **KIM WILDE** **As Mrs Walker** Previews 20 February, Opens 5 March

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 GREASE Starring **RICHARD CALKIN** and **SAMANTHA JANUS** **"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun."** Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE**

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON **"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"** **NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS** **0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)**

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 **"A SAUCY COMEDY"** E Std **NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR** DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER **"Gloriously Outrageous"** T Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/9837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs. no fee) **ROYAL COURT CLASSICS** Henry Goodman Aisling O'Sullivan Fred Pearson Tim Potter HYSTERIA Terry Johnson's **"CUSTARD PIE OF COMIC BRILLIANCE"** Time Out Best Comedy Olivier Award **FOR 2 WEEKS ONLY** Eves 7.30, Mat Thu (25 Jan only) & Sat 3.00 From 1 February David Storey's epic **THE CHANGING ROOM**

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 **DAVID BURKE** **ANDREW HAVILL** Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt **"A real thrill of horror"** S Times **NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR** Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) **WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS** **The Royal National Theatre production** JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS **"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN"** D.Mail **"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s"** E.S **"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"** D.Tel **FINAL LONDON SEASON** Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY **Martin Shaw** **Anna Carteret** **Penny Downie** **David Yelland** **Michael Denison** **Dulcie Gray** **OSCAR WILDE'S** AN IDEAL HUSBAND Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **14 WEEKS ONLY**

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents MARTIN GUERRE A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG **FROM 22 MAY 1996**

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE **NOW BKG TO DEC 96** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 420 0200 **JIM DALE** RETURNS TO THE WEST END **"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT"** Daily Mail OLIVER! **2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR** **'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'** 5 Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5560 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) **Nichola McAuliffe** **Graham Turner** **and Frank Thornton** HOBSON'S CHOICE by Harold Brighouse **"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter"** D.Tel **"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT"** Std Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 **MUST END TONIGHT**

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 **OLIVIER** Today 2.00 & 7.15 A **LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler. Mon 7.15 **MOTHER COURAGE & HER CHILDREN** Bertolt Brecht in a new version by David Hare **LYTTELTON** Today 2.15 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 **ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD** Tom Stoppard **COTTESLOE** Ton't 7.30 **VIOLIN TIME** Ken Campbell. Ton't 6pm **PLATFORM: THE MEN WHO KNOW**

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034 **The Royal National Theatre's** THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS **"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER"** Time Out **MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES... UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE"** Daily Mail **"A WONDERFUL EVENING"** F.T **"AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE"** LNR Booking to 30 March 1996 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** LES MISERABLES **NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards **WILLY RUSSELL'S** BLOOD BROTHERS **STEPHANIE LAWRENCE** **STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE** **...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval"** D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 "WINNER!" BEST MUSICAL **Evening Standard Award '95** BEST MUSICAL **BEST ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL** Caroline O'Connor '96 Olivier Award Nominations MACK & MABEL THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE Mon-Sat at 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 44th Year of Agatha Christie's **THE MOUSETRAP**

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 **SYLVIA SYMS, HENRY McGEE** **LYNDA BARON** **TREVOR BANNISTER** **RAY COONEY, PETER ELLIS** **RON ALDRIDGE** **& RODNEY BEWES** **IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT** FUNNY MONEY **NOMINATED BEST COMEDY 1995 OLIVIER AWARDS** **"LAUGHS GALORE... A WINNER"** D. Exp **"Better than Feydeau... priceless"** D Tel Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123 **BEST MUSICAL** **Laurence Olivier Awards 93** **'YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT'** D.Mail CRAZY FOR YOU **"PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE"** Mail On Sun Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 **GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK** **LAST 6 WEEKS**

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) **BARBICAN: LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS** previews from 23 Jan **THE PIT: SLAUGHTER CITY** Ton't 7.15 **STRATFORD** (01789 295623) **RST ROMEO AND JULIET** Today 1.30 **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** Ton't 7.30 **SWAN, THE DEVIL IS AN ASS** Today 1.30 **THE RELAPSE** Ton't 7.30 **TOP THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR** next perf Wed 24 Jan

SAVOY 0171 836 8888 cc 0171 420 0100 (no bkg fee) ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS **by ALAN AYCKBOURN** **Nominated Best Comedy Olivier Awards 1996** "A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel "with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **OPENS 29 JAN**

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123 "BUDDY" **The Buddy Holly Story** **"BRILLIANT"** Sun "BUDDY" **"WONDERFUL STUFF"** Sun Tel "BUDDY" Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF **7th HEAVENLY YEAR**

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee) **"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see** **The RSC production of** THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE" The Times **"This hugely enjoyable show"** Daily Telegraph Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee) **1996 OLIVIER AWARDS Nominations** "BEST MUSICAL" JOLSON "BEST ACTOR" **in a musical** BRIAN CONLEY "BEST SUPPORTING ARTISTE" **in a musical** JOHN BENNETT "JOLSON" **"Worth walking a million miles to see"** D.Mail Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **NOW BOOKING TO 28th SEPT**

WYNDHAMS 0171 369 1736 (no bkg fee) **Nominated for 5 Olivier Awards** **MICHAEL GAMBON** **LIA WILLIAMS** SKYLIGHT by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE **The sold-out production at the Royal National Theatre now transfers for 10 weeks only from 14 Feb**

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هكذا من الأصل

■ OPERA

As Leeds prepares for *Love Life*, Lys Symonette recalls working with Kurt Weill on the premiere

■ BASE NOTES

Another milestone for Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber: *Cats* becomes the longest-running musical

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Sacked by Covent Garden, Zoltan Solymosi dances into the English National Ballet

■ BASE NOTES

Elizabeth McGovern makes her British stage debut in Molière at the Young Vic

As *Love Life* opens in Leeds, **Rodney Milnes** talks to an original member of the composer's team

Kurt Weill behind the veil

Lys Symonette cheerfully describes her current role as "Mrs Beckmesser". She is in Leeds to advise Opera North during the last days of rehearsal for next week's European premiere of Kurt Weill's Broadway musical *Love Life*, and since she was on the music staff of the first performances in 1948, she is eminently qualified to do so.

She had left Europe in 1936 with a piano and voice scholarship to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and in 1945 played for auditions for a Weill show called *Firebrand of Florence*, one of his rare failures ("It was a marvellous score, completely misdirected"). After three hectic days of deciphering and transposing arrangements brought in by young hopefuls, she was approached by a small, inconspicuous man with huge eyes and thick glasses. "He said, 'I'd like to have you on the show. My name's Kurt Weill.' I'd come from Europe and I knew who Kurt Weill was. I don't believe anyone else on the show did." From then on until his tragically early death in 1950 she was part of the Weill team, working with him on *Street Scene*, *Down in the Valley* and *Lost in the Stars*. But *Love Life* remains the show closest to her heart.

It was arguably the first "concept" musical, composed to a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, fresh from *Brigadoon* but before *My Fair Lady*. The subject is a marriage, but seen through 150 years of American history, from the optimism of post-revolutionary 1791, through the Industrial Revolution, the Depression and divorce, with a vaudeville ensemble commenting acidly on the social, political and financial pressures on human relationships.

"I love the satirical form," Symonette says. "I love the lyrics, and as far as the Broadway musical is concerned, I think this is Weill's best. It's a story of everything that concerns us today, told with humour and compassion. And it really advanced the scope of musical theatre, which was Weill's goal in life."

Why, then, after a respectable initial run of 252 performances — not bad for so experimental a piece — did *Love Life* disappear? A strike by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers meant that no cast recording was made, but there is much more to it than that. "Lerner didn't want it done again after Weill's death, which his widow, Lotte Lenya, was not happy about. For what reason I can't honestly tell you, except that Lerner himself had a lot of bad marriages. His last wife [Liz Robertson] was the only one he was happy with. He told me just before he died that he had a bad conscience about stealing one of the *Love Life* lyrics, *I remember it well*, and using it in *Gigi*. Lenya was very angry."

> ‘He even wanted to give Brecht a monthly allowance’

The librettist may also have felt guilty about an incident in the summer of 1949, when Weill collapsed on the tennis court and made Lerner promise not to tell Lenya. Lerner kept his promise and eight months later Weill was dead. Either way, the fact that the partnership did not prosper is a fearful waste. "Lerner," Symonette says, "was the American writer that Weill really felt closest to and admired as a great talent. They planned many other projects together. Lerner himself believed that, despite the enormous success of *My Fair Lady*, he never again reached the heights he reached with Weill."

With so forward-looking a show, the out-of-town try-outs were especially fraught, and there is almost enough discarded material for a whole new show. Symonette remembers how one of Weill's most beautiful songs, *Susan's Dream*, was dropped because it did not work in New Haven, Connecticut — Weill the man of the theatre won out over Weill the composer. "They needed something to advance the plot, so Weill and Lerner sat in the park in Boston and dreamt up the *Hobo Song*."

Voice of experience: Lys Symonette is in Leeds to advise Opera North on its production of *Love Life*

Then there is the Locker Room sequence, an hilarious, acid-tinged ensemble of husbands boasting about their macho prowess and their success in cheating on their wives. "Lerner told me that so many men came to him during the try-outs to complain that they felt insulted that he took it out. This showed that the number worked, and worked too well." For "insulted" read "threatened" — and rest assured that the scene is back in the show in Leeds.

Even if you read everything published about him — and Weill scholarship is one of today's great musical growth industries — it is still difficult to get a handle on Weill the man. He remains curiously shadowy. Can Symonette, who worked closely with him for five years, help? "Oh, he was an enigma. Lenya herself said that she'd been married to him for 25 years and still didn't think she really knew him. He was friendly and loved to laugh. But there was always a certain distance, a point when you knew you couldn't go any further. Some people thought he was arrogant, but he wasn't at all. He was rather shy, a very private man. He was bookish, always reading, reading, reading, and very politically alert although not involved in politics in any direct way — that was one reason why he parted from Brecht. But he informed himself about what was going on in the world.

"He was a humanist, intensely concerned with any human suffering, and helped financially an enormous number of other refugees from Germany. He even wanted to give Brecht a monthly allowance, but Lenya said, 'Don't do it'. She knew Brecht was nothing but trouble."

There are limits, then, even to Weill's humanism, but they are not apparent in *Love Life*. Lerner's libretto is sharp, knowing, at times unsparingly bitter, but Weill's music oozes with compassion for frail, fragile humanity. It is a powerful combination, as audiences in Leeds will discover next week.

● Love Life *opens at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, on Thursday (0113-244 0971 or 245 9351)*

It's the Cats' whiskers

What do seven million people have in common? They have all seen the London production of Cats, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical which on January 29 will have had London's and Broadway's longest-ever run for a musical, overtaking the record of 6,137 performances held by the Broadway production of *A Chorus Line*. *Cats* became London's longest-running musical ever in May 1989. It opened at the New London Theatre on May 11, 1981, and is currently playing in nine productions around the world, with a worldwide box-office take of £1 billion.

● ZOLTAN SOLYMOSI, the principal dancer sacked by Covent Garden last year, is joining London City Ballet. The Hungarian-born Solymosi has signed up with LCB as resident guest artist for the remainder of the company's 1995-96 British tour. He will give as many as 40 performances, mainly as Prince Charming in Matthew Hart's new *Cinderella*.

BASE NOTES

● THE smaller the better: that seems to be the way to win the **Stephen Oliver Prize**. The 1996 competition will be awarded for a chamber opera with a maximum duration of 45 minutes and scored for no more than eight instruments. Entrants, who must be under 35, will be invited to set a given libretto by **David Edgar**. The £10,000 prize is in memory of Oliver, whose composing talents included everything from the RSC's *Nicholas Nickleby* to the opera *Timon of Athens*. He died in 1992 at the age of 42. Closing date is June 30; details from David Emerson, Secretary, Stephen Oliver Trust, PW Productions, 11 Goodwins Court, London WC2N 4LL.

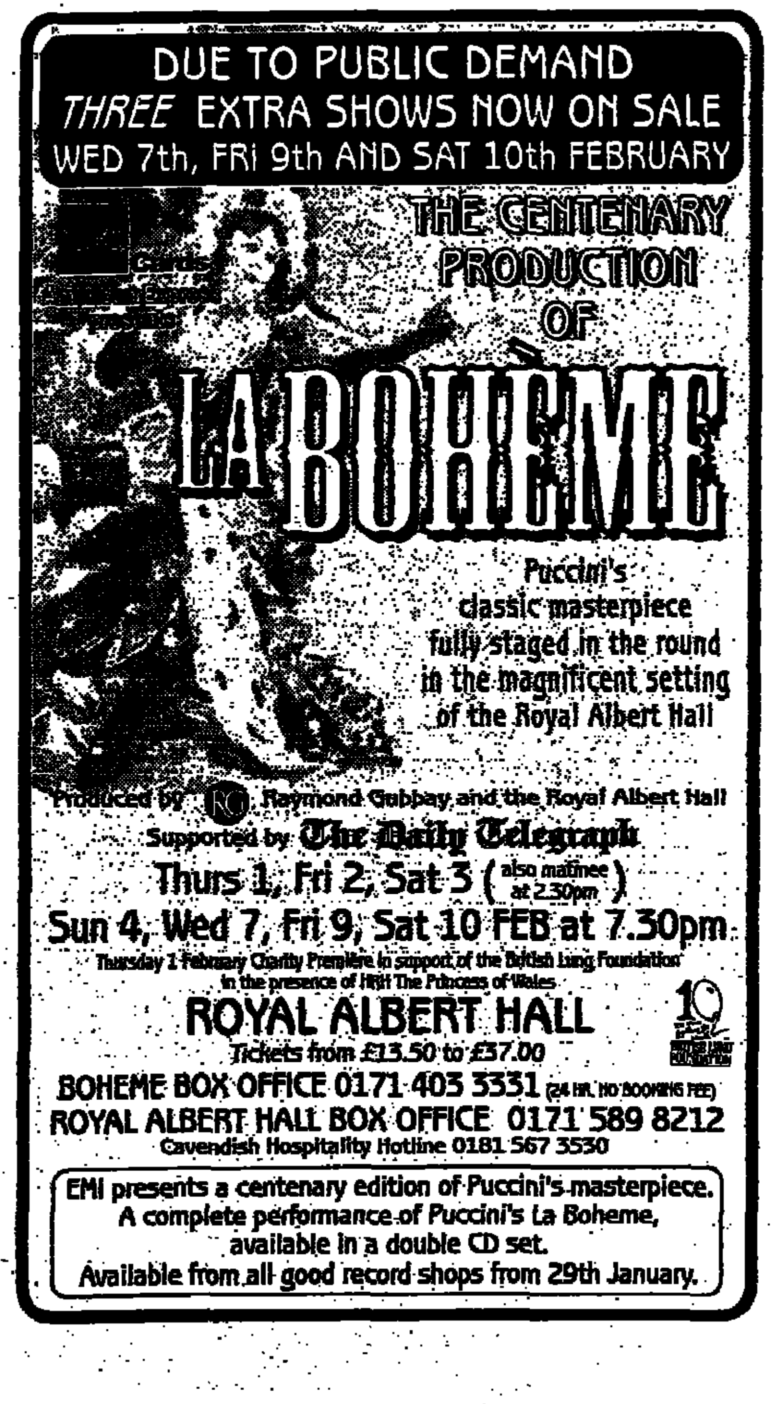
● THE American actress **Elizabeth McGovern**, best known for her Oscar-nominated performance in the Milos Forman film *Ragtime*, will make her British stage debut next month opposite Ken Stott in the Young Vic's revival of Molière's *The Misanthrope*. The actress was called in at short notice to replace Rachel Weisz, who was summoned to Hollywood to appear alongside Keanu Reeves in *Dead Drop*.

● DON'T strain your eyes trying to catch **Lindsay Duncan** in her forthcoming appearance as **Al Pacino's** wife in the new film *City Hall*. Cast as the wife of the Mayor of New York, Duncan admits that most of her performance is "on the cutting room floor: I'm still in the film, but in very truncated form".

● SNEAKING in early to try to upstage the record industry's Brit Awards, the rock weekly *NME* hands out its rival **Brat** statuettes at London's New Empire on Tuesday. Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer will be the hosts. The prizes will be awarded in 18 categories, some chosen by the paper's staff, others by its readers. Least eagerly awaited award? That which honours 1995's worst record. Nominees include **Blur's** *Country House*, **The Outhere Bros'** *Boom Boom*, and **Simply Red's** *Fairground* but the smart money is on **Robson & Jerome's** *Unchained Melody*.

● THE Nobel Prize winner **Derek Walcott** has finished his new musical, written in collaboration with singer/songwriter **Paul Simon**. The musical, about a murderer called Capeman, is to be staged on Broadway.

● **PAUL KELLOGG**, the opera mastermind behind the successful Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, New York that has provided a home to such English talent as Jonathan Miller, has been appointed general and artistic director of the New York City Opera. Kellogg replaces Christopher Keene, who died in October. The appointment comes at a good time for the Hollywood-born Kellogg since it has coincided with the New York City debut of Glimmerglass, with the opening on January 13 of its acclaimed production of *The Coronation of Poppea*.



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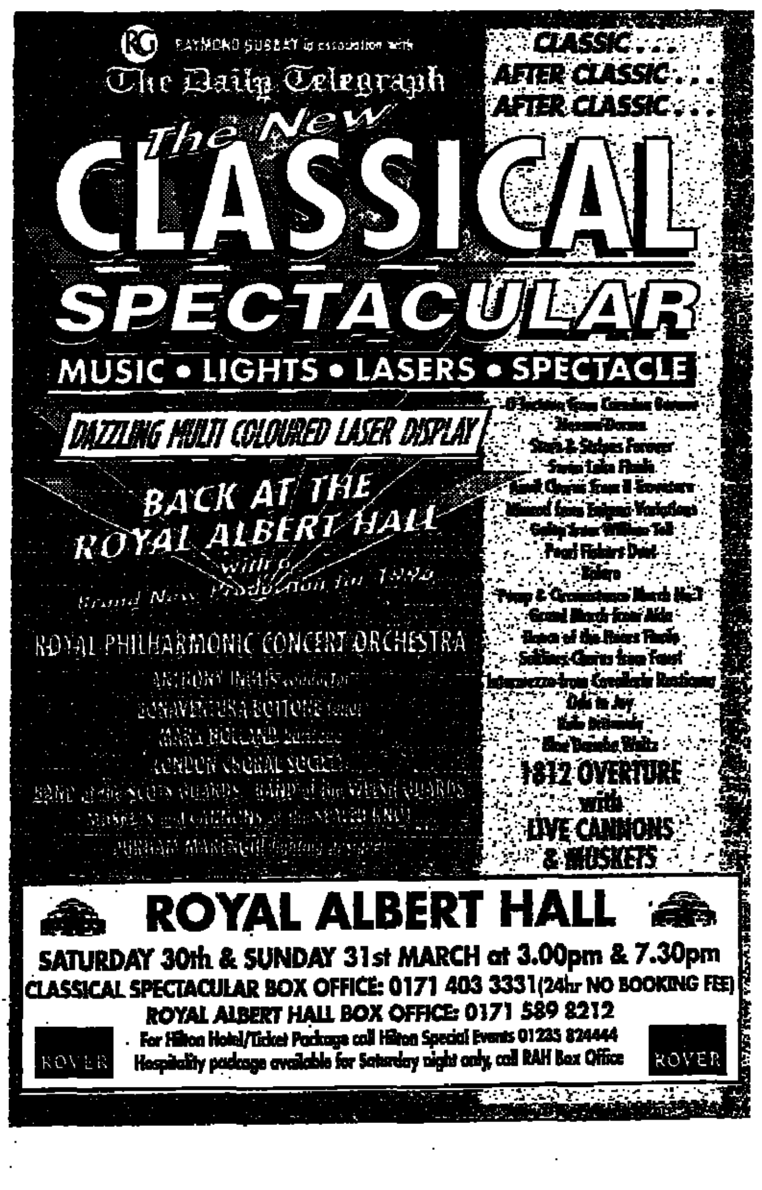

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British quarantine laws are obsolete, cruel and hypocritical: by defending them, the Government is serving only the kennel lobby

Englishmen and mad dogs

Simon Jenkins

Let us suppose that all travellers arriving in Britain from abroad are required to spend six months in a quarantine hostel for fear of leprosy. Their port of departure does not matter, nor their vaccination record, state of health or length of stay. On Government orders, they are kept in isolation and allowed no outside doctors. The hostel is not inspected and friends can only push food through the bars.

Point out to the Government that there are no lepers in Britain any more and a minister will boast that the policy is clearly working. Mention that no other country inflicts this cruelty on visitors and he replies: more fool them. Mention vaccination and he shakes his head: better safe than sorry.

I am not a dog fanatic. There is a small and endearing member of the species in my house but on the whole I regard city dogs as pests. They foul parks, frighten children and wreck conversation. Dogs have their role in nature's noble drama, but it is best played out in the countryside. I am told that philosophers have accorded dogs "rights". If so, they must find other exponents than myself.

But dog owners do have rights. One of them is to take their property across national boundaries when this does no harm to others. Britain's Victorian rabies laws prevent frequent travellers from carrying their pets with them. If pets are taken, they must go into quarantine in a Government-approved kennel on their return. Quarantine costs some £1,500 per animal for the requisite six months.

Over the past 20 years not one genuine (rather than vaccine-induced) case of rabies has been detected in quarantine. The cost in physical and psychological damage to the dogs and cats is known only to them and their owners. The cost in grief is incalculable — although I am sure some tort lawyer would make a guess. The cost to the tourist trade in refusing to allow continental travellers to bring pets to Britain on holiday must be huge. The policy is illiberal and obsolete. How does it survive?

The answer is that it has its beneficiaries. Over the past 20 years I calculate that the 79 Government-licensed quarantine kennels have taken in some £200 million, a figure that is growing with increased family mobility. Half these kennels are members of the Quarantine Kennel Owners' Association. This describes itself as "the better end of the market". Of the worse end we know little, since the ministry protects kennels from public scrutiny. The quarantine reform lobby, Passports for Pets, has bulging files on malnutrition, solitary confinement, tiny cages, concrete floors, worn paws and throats wrecked by agonised barking. The freedom of these kennels from inspection is extraordinary, given Whitehall's paranoia about the treatment of farm animals. The RSPCA is also barred by law from access. Owners' vets have no declared right to examine their pets.

While no cats or dogs contract rabies in quarantine, some 150 a year die there. In a recent case, the first an owner knew of a death was a box of ashes through the post. Many owners feel their animals die of separation and neglect as much as maltreatment. For a dog, quarantine is jail without reason. For owners, enduring the trauma of returning home from a foreign posting, the separation can seem no less cruel. The columns of army newspapers are filled with the tribulations of service family pets.

The quarantine rules are not only cruel to animals and individuals, they are hypocritical. Because they are so draconian, thousands of pets are smuggled into Britain without detection, with no resulting check on vaccination. Needless to say, this massive avoidance has led to no increase in rabies in Britain. But then there is no rabies in Portugal, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark or the rest of Scandinavia. The disease has all but vanished in France. Sylvan rabies (detected in some German foxes) does not communicate to human beings. Denmark, which has a long border with Germany, does not live in mortal terror of rabid migrants. Germans do not walk their streets, or even their woods, in gaiters for fear of being bitten. There are no rabid human beings, presumably the object of this concern, anywhere on the Continent. The last recorded death was in France in 1928. The scare is absurd.

The Government knows this. It waives the rules for Defence Ministry guard-dogs, yet it refuses to do so for guide-dogs for the blind. The policy thus imprisons thousands of blind people in Britain for their holidays. Last year the Government abandoned quarantine altogether for traded cats and dogs. The reason was that Brussels, home of the protection racket, had at least rumbled this one. The quarantine laws were disallowed for animal traders under the single market. The best hope for animal libertarians is yet more European harmonisation.

Agriculture ministers are famously tetchy on this topic. When a politician knows he is doing something wrong, he murmurs "politics". Yet there is no politics here. The non-partisan Commons Select Committee on Rabies in 1994 concluded in favour of abandoning quarantine at least within Europe. Vaccination is adequate. Nor is there any great opposition from the media, so feared by John Major's entourage. The Tory press (including the *Telegraph*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Sunday Express*) regularly campaign for repeal.

The truth lies elsewhere. It was contained in the remarks of the then Agriculture Minister, Gillian Shephard, to the select committee in July 1994. Pressed time and again on quarantine by baffled Members of Parliament, she preserved the ministry *omertà* towards the kennel owners and referred only to her "veterinary advisers". Her advice, she said, was that Britain was "not ready". When I hear the such advice, I hear £200 million talking.

Year after year the ministry plays along. It displays posters of rabid dogs at Channel ports and even canal docks. To say that other diseases more deserve public attention is understatement. In the dog department, pit bulls and rottweilers are a greater menace. So are poison adders. Yet the Government has no adder eradication policy, presumably because there is no adder-farm owners association.

The rabies laws are Britain at its most insular and government at its most timid. The 1994 select committee advised a switch to vaccination and tagging for the movement of pets within Europe and between other rabies-free countries. Vaccination is the practice in other European countries, allied to a microchip passport implanted under the skin. The Government response was again that it was "not ready". Kennel lobbyists make much of the ease of evasion, but there is no incentive to evasion that could equal six months' quarantine. Any obstructionist can find problems. Only the British Civil Service is allegedly flummoxed.

Governments demonstrate their competence in small things as well as big. The official portrayal of the risk of rabies is so distorted as to constitute a lie. Ministers know vaccination works and would leave British dog-owners and public as safe as they are now, and appreciably more free. Yet a change would mean confronting a lobby with profits and a good scare story at its disposal, a story that ministers have long propagated. Ministers would rather not do this, so the lie is disseminated. The nation's ports are daubed with signs suggesting that the medieval alleys of Calais and Ostend are alive with foaming dogs, frantic to devastate the pure homesteads of Merrie England.

The last time the Ministry of Agriculture tangled with this sort of statistical terrorism was over BSE in cattle. Then the boot was on the other foot. It accused its critics of alarmism and exaggeration, of declaring a public health risk where none existed. We were all told to examine the evidence and look at the facts. We were told to grow up.

Physician heal thyself.

Why we need a change of heart on divorce law

Lord Mackay's Family Law Bill must be made tougher to help to preserve marriage, says **Basil Hume**

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, officiates at a wedding in Westminster Cathedral: is the marriage bond still sacred?

Nervousness over the Government's divorce-law proposals stems from a deep and growing anxiety about the fragile state of family life. We each have a stake in the long-term objective of preventing marital relationships from disintegrating at the alarming rate they do now. It is a moral, social and political project of immense proportions.

There is an urgent need to rediscover a shared acceptance of certain unchanging and basic norms governing human behaviour. It is not so much that there has been a sudden outbreak of evil, but rather that the clear signposts which we all need to guide us in living out any human commitment seem to have faded. This is why, in the Roman Catholic bishops' statement on the Family Law Bill in November, we proclaimed the moral and spiritual basis of marriage:

> We firmly believe and teach that marriage is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of society. It is a contract or covenant by which a man and a woman freely consent to live with each other "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part".

It follows that the Roman Catholic Church is opposed to divorce, whereby the civil authority attempts to break this irrevocable covenant and allows another marriage. But the Church recognises that divorce may, in certain circumstances, have to be tolerated if it is the only way of safeguarding the legal rights of the spouses and the children, or the division of property.

The question is, what divorce legislation will cause the least harm? This is a difficult and complex area, and it would be wrong for anyone — bishop or layperson — to argue that Catholics are, as a matter of conscience, obliged to make a particular prudential judgement for or against the details of the current Bill. On a previous occasion I have said that personally I would support the Lord Chancellor's Bill, if this were to result in reducing acrimony and conflict when the parties are determined to seek divorce, and if it were to end the so-called "quickie" divorce. Since then, having followed the debate closely and reflected further, I have concluded that there are areas where the Bill needs to be strengthened.

There is a salutary lesson to be learnt from earlier legislation in this area, about how easy it is for the legislators to fail to foresee the actual effect of the provisions they enact. The 1969 Divorce Act contains cautionary examples of how clauses intended to restrict access to divorce have, in fact, led to divorce on demand. In trying to assess the likely effects of the current Bill, it is important to be clear about the present law under which civil marriage has already become *de facto* a temporary union. Since 1969, it has become common for those seeking a divorce, especially where children are involved, not to rely on two (or five) years' separation as proof of "irretrievable breakdown", but instead to use one of the so-called "fault" clauses by claiming adultery or unreasonable behaviour. Around 75 per cent of divorce petitions cite one of these "fault" clauses, often because it is possible to obtain a divorce much more quickly by alleging fault than by waiting for a period of separation to pass. Most divorces take less than one year.

I would imagine that most marital relationships are likely to undergo a degree of stress induced by faults and failings, and those which manage to endure no doubt do so in part because ways of coping, and even growing through these, are developed. But when a divorce takes place, whatever faults there may be on either or both sides are symptoms or causes of what is fundamentally wrong: the breakdown of the marriage.

It is, however, widely argued that by excluding "fault" the current proposals will, for the first time, allow unilateral access to divorce by either partner without any objective proof of breakdown and so turn marriage into a provisional contract. It is further argued that the presence of a "fault" clause has a symbolic effect in underlining the wrongness of attempting to break the marriage contract, and that a "no-fault" divorce law sends a moral message that marriage is a temporary relationship which exists principally for the fulfilment of the individual spouses. The merits of these important points will, I trust, be considered by Parliament. At the same time, other considerations are also relevant.

In civil law, marriage is already a temporary contract which can be broken by the unilateral decision of one partner sustained over a period of time. The new proposals will not alter that. Moreover, even when the "fault" clauses are used at present, it is sufficient for an allegation to be made — it does not have to be proved. Now the Church's teaching is that a valid marriage contract cannot be broken. From a moral point of view the marriage vows continue to bind, whatever the State may say or decree. From a legal point of view it is difficult to see what more objective proof of marital breakdown there could be other than the sustained determination of one or both partners to end it, evidenced for instance by a period of separation.

It is arguable, therefore, that the practical effect of the "fault" clause in the present law is more symbolic than real. In any case, it is necessary to find effective ways of underlining the seriousness of the marriage contract in legislation.

One obvious possibility would be to lengthen the so-called waiting period. The Bill, as I understand it, proposes that either or both parties should be able to apply for a divorce order after a 12-month period for reflection, provided they declare that the marriage has irretrievably broken down and that they have settled all property and custody matters. Here, again, there are a number of factors to be considered, not least the effect of prolonged uncertainty on children. But I do wonder whether a period as short as a year is sufficient to establish that a marriage has irretrievably broken down.

Secondly, there is also the question of what happens during this "period for reflection and consideration", as the Bill describes it. The purpose of this period is more than to prepare for divorce; it is to reflect on whether the marriage can be saved. It is therefore essential that sufficient resources are provided for marriage counselling so that at every stage in the process there are ample opportunities for couples to explore whether their marriage is salvageable. Mediation in many cases will no doubt prove to be the least painful way for couples to negotiate what is always a tragic and difficult route to a divorce settlement. But quite apart from mediation, it is essential that more explicit recognition is given in the Bill to the important role marriage counselling can play in exploring the possibility of reconciliation.

A third way to bolster the Bill might be to strengthen the so-called hardship bar. This provision, which exists in the present law, bars divorce where dissolution of the marriage would lead to grave financial or other hardship. No one should simply be able to walk away from the legal obligations of a wrecked marriage without first agreeing to adequate and fair terms. Moreover, if one party does not want to divorce, and sees themselves as the innocent party, it is extremely important that they should not be penalised. To this extent at least, it is essential that immoral or unjust conduct should be taken into account.

These, then, are some of the concerns I have about the Bill as presently drafted. But any necessary reform of the divorce law can only be part of a larger project of strengthening the institution of marriage and family life.

One urgent need is for better marriage preparation to be available to all. I am often struck by the thought that a monk has to wait five years before being allowed to take solemn vows. Monastic vows are no more solemn than the vows of marriage. And monks do not have the grave responsibility of bringing new life into the world and nurturing young children. We are spending too much money and energy focusing on the ending of marriages, when what is needed is more investment on preparing for marriage and sustaining couples, especially in the early years. Maybe we should make entry into marriage more difficult. In this way we might rediscover a stronger sense of the sacredness and seriousness of the marriage bond.

In saying this I do not ignore the rise in cohabitation, which is a widespread social trend. But the answer is to make marriage more attractive by doing all we can to ensure more marriages flourish. As well as doing more to prepare people for marriage, far more resources than the present £3 million should be given to marriage counselling services and other similar organisations. Furthermore, a comprehensive family policy is needed to ensure that a range of government policies, including employment, housing and the tax and benefit system become more helpful to families.

The Church has an important role too, both in marriage preparation and support for existing marriages. Nor must we forget that the Church's role always includes the care and support of those who have suffered the pain of separation and divorce, whether it is their fault or not. Bishops and priests should remind them that the fact of being divorced does not debar a person from the sacraments. Remarriage by the divorced does. Towards those who have divorced and then remarried, pastors must, without compromising the Church's teaching, show understanding and compassion, emphasising that they remain members of the Church.

God created each one of us in His own image and likeness. He called us into existence through love, and He calls us at the same time to love. One way of fulfilling that vocation is marriage. If our society is to recover a healthier family life, it requires us to become more aware of the extraordinary potential for human fulfilment within marriages which, although they may not be perfect, are nonetheless good enough. There is a clear need to bring about a change in people's attitudes and expectations regarding marital relationships and the bringing up of children. This requires not so much a change in the law as a change of heart.

This is an edited version of an article in the current issue of The Tablet.

Old haunts

THE TIMES DIARY

WESTMINSTER can scarcely contain itself at the prospect of Edwina Currie starring as herself in Prince Edward's new political TV soap, called *Annie's Bar*. But the programme's maker is cracking on with his next project — the Prince is hunting out ghosts.

"Personally I think it leaves a bit of an aftertaste"

Edward Windsor, joint director of Ardent Productions Ltd (as he styles himself in the trade), is engaged on a four-part series called *Castle Ghosts* which he has sold to the Discovery Channel in America.

The first episode, filmed after the game Prince tracked down spirits at three English castles — Muncaster, Sudeley and the Tower of London — is narrated by the pompous Robert Hardy.

With a litany of royal connections and apparitions to draw on, and a history degree from Cambridge behind him, Prince Edward is confident of success on his spooky venture, says his Ardent co-director, Eben Foggitt.

But his personal ambition has yet to be fulfilled. "I think he's rather disappointed," explains Foggitt. "He has told me he would like to meet a ghost but has yet to do so. He's talked to a woman who is in a state of shock because a ghost walked straight through her, but sadly it hasn't happened to Edward yet," Foggitt adds. "But we still have to film at castles in Scotland, Wales and Ireland for the series so maybe he'll have better luck at those locations."

● *Could the Bishop of Coventry, Simon Barrington-Ward, a man who drives a Rover but is more commonly to be seen on his bicycle, have been quietly impressed by Lucy "Godiva" Pearce when she derobed so dramatically in Coventry Cathedral? In his address about the environment, he definitely referred to the "ozone leer".*

Slugging it

ONE OF the slimier creatures of British politics is in demand. Kenneth Baker, MP for Mole Valley, wants to buy for his caricature collection the *Spitting Image* puppet which portrays him as a loathsome slug.

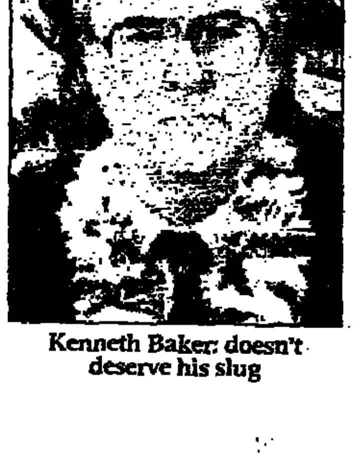
"Yes, he has asked for it," says Roger Law, the puppet-maker who has announced his plan to sell all his puppets after the current series finishes. "But I'm not sure I'll let him have it. I don't think he deserves it." He has also received an inquiry for all the master moulds of the Royal Family puppets — at any price.

Swinging

THERE has been alarmingly idiosyncratic behaviour from Alan Howarth, the Conservative defector. His new Labour comrades were bewildered the other day when the Stratford-on-Avon MP ambled aimlessly out of a Commons select committee just as it was voting on its report concerning the Government's immigration and asylum proposals.

Howarth left ostensibly to speak in the Commons chamber, but he never actually made a speech. He had already bemused Labour members of the Social Security Select Committee by teaming up with the far left MP Jeremy Corbyn in opposing some of the committee's proposals.

● *The Maxwell trial is to be commemorated by journalists. They already have a tie for the Jeremy Thorpe trial portraying Rinka, Norman Scott's dog, with RIP underneath. And there is the Gulf War tie, with a cruise missile and the logo "Saddam Busters". There is even a Scott inquiry tie, I'm told. Now there will be the Maxwell tie — showing a hand rising from the waves tightly clutching a batch of sodden pension books.*



Kenneth Baker: doesn't deserve his slug

Pitching in

THE DUCHESS of York is not alone in making transcontinental detours of thousands of miles at the drop of an orb. Matthew Harding, the patron of Richard Branson's weather-troubled round-the-world balloon attempt, is popping back from Morocco this weekend to watch Chelsea play Nottingham Forest at home. It's a round trip of 3,000 miles. "It's my second trip. I came back [by private jet] on Wednesday to watch Chelsea beat Newcastle," explains the chairman of the Benfield reinsurance group. "I've been following Chelsea for 33 years. I can't miss a game."

Party pooper

DURING the Maxwell trial, which ended yesterday with a not guilty verdict for the two brothers, Kevin Maxwell said his father was a "frightening character" — after the boy was gated for smoking at Marlborough, the huge man insisted that he wrote home each week listing his scholastic achievements.

Ghislaine Maxwell: quiet birthday girl

Maxwell Senior was no less beastly to his favourite daughter, Ghislaine. At her 21st birthday party, a modest little affair for a few hundred friends, he made a speech inviting guests to have a jolly time. Then came word that the maestro had gone to bed and couldn't sleep for noise. It was well before midnight, but everybody was asked to leave.

P·H·S

IN THE DOCK

Britain's financial regulation has been tried and found wanting

The instant reaction to the acquittals in the Maxwell trial is all too predictable. First there are the howls of indignation about the enormous waste of public money — in this case an estimated £30 million. Then there are the demands to abolish the Serious Fraud Office. Finally there are the calls for a leaner, more efficient mechanism to deter financial wrongdoing, probably based on the American financial regulation. Such reactions are almost taken for granted.

But the indignation and the demands for change are well justified. The public may indeed be numbed into indifference by the Guinness affair, the Blue Arrow trial, the Barlow Clowes fraud, the George Walker prosecution, the BCCI scandal and the abdication of authority over the Barings collapse to Singapore. Ministers, merchant bankers and lawyers will be tempted just to shrug their shoulders, rally round and assure the public that the British system is the best anyone has ever thought of.

A new round of such official complacency will not, however, serve the interests of the British economy or the City of London. Indeed, it risks further undermining public respect for the law. The Government's first reaction to this fiasco must be to publish the DTI and IMRO reports on the collapse of the Maxwell empire, information which some in the City establishment would dearly like to suppress. The consequences of this debacle should then extend much wider.

The Government must initiate a serious inquiry into the laws and regulations which govern financial dealing. The main issue is not the competence of SFO or of George Staple, its much maligned director. Nor is there any convicing case for abolishing a fraud defendant's right to a trial or for increasing the SFO's already draconian investigative powers. On a purely statistical basis, the SFO has a perfectly decent record, having achieved convictions in 62 per cent of cases in the seven years since it was set up. The trouble is that the cases that failed have included the most notorious frauds, which have wasted hugely disproportionate amounts of public money and court time.

The experience of these monstrous trials is now conclusive. The common law offences of fraud and theft are simply not appropriate to cover the complicated transactions and chains of contractual relationships which arise in the biggest financial mishaps. Investigators must have a clearer idea before the start of a prosecution of whether or not there has been a breach of the law.

The way to achieve such clarification is to define criminal and civil offences that match the operations of the modern financial world. One approach, proposed this week by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, would be to strengthen the company law *offence of deceiving auditors*, which currently carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment. A broader reform would seek to punish and deter malfeasance through the civil, rather than criminal, law.

The idea of creating a powerful financial regulator, modelled on the US Securities and Exchange Commission, is finding growing support even within the City and the Bank of England, which have traditionally insisted on the lightest possible financial supervision, based on self-regulation. Whichever of the many possible options are ultimately enacted, the Government and the City cannot afford simply to ignore the evidence that the present system of financial regulation has failed.

PADDY'S PROBLEM

The Liberal Democrats lack thinkers and need thought

Over the next few days the Liberal Democrats' leader Paddy Ashdown will make the latest of his periodic attempts to move into the limelight. Tomorrow it is his turn to face Sir David Frost and on Monday he plans what he hopes will be a substantial speech on future policies. His view of himself is as a pacemaker for progress in British public life. His problem is that those on the moderate Centre-Left who sought to break the mould in the Eighties are now with Labour. This includes not just the voters but the key thinkers. When he has to answer the question *"what are the Liberal Democrats for?"* he is increasingly on his own.

The Lib Dems are not without reasons to be cheerful. The defection of Emma Nicholson symbolises three — their strength in the South-West, an appeal to anxious Tories, and a sense that on issues like Europe they give a clearer lead than Labour. But each of those props is fragile.

The Lib Dems appear to challenge the Tories closely in the West Country and were successful in harvesting the rural anti-Tory vote at the European elections. But Labour's pre-eminence in the polls is consistent across the country. Any revival of socialist fortunes west of Bristol could split the opposition.

The third party's role as a home for Tory protest has been usurped by Tony Blair's audacious appropriation of One Nation rhetoric and a calculated pitch to bourgeois worries on schools and crime. He has also been helped by the Lib Dems' quixotic attachment to taxing more than Labour.

When Tory Governments were in trouble in the early Sixties, Seventies and Eighties the centre party enjoyed revivals that promised a tantalising breakthrough. But in the Nineties the prospects are less good. The moderates who flocked to Grimond, Thorpe and Steel now look to Mr Blair.

The third Lib Dem advantage, greater *clarity than cautious* Labour, still exists, but it is being eroded. Mr Blair may have admitted to David Frost that the stakeholder economy was "if you like... a slogan", but Labour is inching towards a more precise definition of policy without, it appears so far, sacrificing any popularity.

Mr Ashdown is working to sharpen his party's definition. He hopes to act as guardian and pathfinder for the forces of the Centre-Left. He will argue that Labour will need to work out its policies in greater detail to avoid being de-railed by a rejuvenated Right. He will welcome Mr Blair's comments on a stakeholder economy but gives *warning that a narrow concentration on economics* without answers to environmental, European and welfare concerns will leave the Left advancing on too narrow a front.

Mr Ashdown's analysis is persuasive but there is a danger that the Lib Dems may become simply bridesmaids to Mr Blair. In the past Liberal intellectuals such as Beveridge and Keynes saw their ideas adopted by Labour but their party nearly annihilated. Already many of the thinkers who gave the Alliance momentum in the Eighties, such as David Marquand and Roger Liddle, are Blairites. Other younger figures are following fast.

After the election the Lib Dems may hope to influence Mr Blair in return for freeing him from his hard Left but their power would be limited. Any caucus that sought to impede a new government in its own interests would not be thanked by an electorate anxious to let the new leader get on with it.

The Lib Dems might benefit from going back to their roots, with a robust reassertion of liberalism in the face of a lurch to author*itarianism from both main parties, typefied* by Jack Straw and Michael Howard. It could attract many otherwise dis-affected voters, especially among the young. On the age of consent and asylum the party has been bolder than its opponents. Liberalism is an enduring creed. It deserves dedicated advocates.

DON'T BEATIFY ME, ARGENTINA

Film is film and fact is fact, and never the credits shall meet

They want to declare Madonna persona non grata in Argentina. DeMillions want to send packing her and the rest of the cast who are in Buenos Aires to shoot the film of *Evita* with the ageing and outraging sex-kitten. For Peronists Evita is still the god-daughter of Joan of Arc. The hubbub of graffiti and parliamentary motions leaves no room to state that screenplays are unrecognisable from their originals. Otherwise, what point in rewrite-men? And it is no good explaining to Argenteeny-boppers that Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber is a composer of familiar tunes — and nothing as dull as a historian.

But it is worth reminding that movie-struck nation that the connection between stars and the personages they represent on screen is necessarily as thin as the storyline. Real life makes only home movies, which all except those with major feature roles in them would pay not to have to sit through.

In Oliver Stone's Nixon, Anthony Hopkins gives a convincing performance of the Hollywood star as a bumbling loner stoned to death who would not have survived for even a day in Washington. God must have been disappointed with *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. *His only-begotten Son turned out* to be a bore with a Swedish accent, and as centurion, John Wayne got only one line: "Truly, this man was the Son of Gaaard." Rock Hudson, Victor Mature and Arnold Schwarzenegger have made successful careers out of beefcaking up dull biographies.

The Scots could object to their nationalist hero, William Wallace, portrayed by Mel Gibson, taking an unconscionable time being disembowelled of his *Braveheart*. But a nation that took David Niven as Bonnie Prince Charlie and Shakespeare's travesty of good King Macbeth knows its Odeons from its tweedily unglamorous Scot Nats.

Hugh Grant gave an original portrayal of Chopin as upper-class English twit with floppy hair. Charlton Heston made Moses a hearty and hairy Aryan. Madonna may not be everyone's idea of Evita. But nor was Paulette Goddard like Lucrezia Borgia. Nor were Ida Lupino and Olivia de Havilland first choice by the Brontë Society for the sisters. The publicity described the latter, playing Charlotte: "The sweetness of love and the meaning of torment — she learned them both together." After playing the St Bernadette who gave birth only to the tourist industry at Lourdes, Jennifer Jones split up with her husband to marry her Svengali director, David Selznick.

Film is the most powerful entertainment of this century. Its flickering images reflect, exaggerate and distort the shadows of real *life. But Madonna as Evita is apter casting* than usual. Both were ambitious young women who pulled themselves up by the strings of their dancing-shoes to make themselves superstars and populist heroines. Never mind the music or the record. *Enjoy the celebrity. Both of the ladies would.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Whose responsibility to instil moral values in children?

From the Head Master of Rugby School

Sir, All Heads surely yearn for the decent behaviour in their schools rightly called for by Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (report, January 15: leading article, January 16).

However, expressing moral codes as "a modern ten commandments" may not be the wisest way to set out for the Promised Land. Schools must map out very clearly what they expect and then gently (but with granite in the soul) insist on that with a kind of tenacious hope, knowing all the while that failure will be frequent.

Broken laws imply punishment and damnation: perceived values which are met most of the time but not all of the time demand understanding and some forgiving. We should remember that the Ten Commandments were practical things. It is helpful in schools to follow the same line: all actions have consequences on other people and that is the way to present a moral code to boys and girls, rather than as rules which can never be broken.

This requires constancy and consistency, but not absolutism, from every person on the teaching staff. *Colleagues will have differing* views on such situations as sex before marriage, living with an unmarried partner and so on; but admirable headings, such as honesty, respect for others, patience, a sense of fair play and so on, need to be put into practice, *not with a gavel, but by quiet and frequent* example. We all need to remember Iago's observation of Cassio: "He hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly."

Unlike policemen and judges, we as educators must accept failure as part *of the pattern. Firmly and cheerfully* we need to insist on good behaviour in every nook and cranny of our schools but we should be happy when most things go right rather than pompous when one thing does not.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAVOR,
Head Master,
Rugby School, Warwickshire.
January 15.

From Dr James Tooley

Sir, While of course I welcome Dr Tate raising the issue of moral decline in his role as family man and Christian, there is a crucial ethical difference between this and his raising the issue as a government spokesperson. Perhaps the most deeply disturbing aspect of Dr Tate's intervention was his mention on Radio 4's *Today* programme that he would seek for his "ten commandments" to be part of the national curriculum when it comes up for review.

In your leader of January 16 you write that "the responsibility for instilling a sense of civic virtue falls more heavily than ever on the overburdened shoulders of the schoolteacher". This is dangerous talk. All of us need to wake up to our moral responsibilities, and part of the reason for moral decline surely lies with the way we have handed over increasing responsibilities for our communities to government.

Following Dr Tate's route will only intensify that abdication of our duties. The best memorial to the murdered headteacher Philip Lawrence would be to eschew government's further encroachment on civil society.

Sincerely,
JAMES TOOLEY
(Director, Education Training Unit, Institute of Economic Affairs),
The University of Manchester,
Centre for Social Ethics & Policy,
Oxford Road, Manchester 13.
January 16.

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, Dr Tate is absolutely right to stress the importance of inculcating moral values among our young people. Schools do, of course, have an important role to play in this exercise but it must not be assumed that teachers should be the ones to take complete responsibility on behalf of the wider society for ensuring that children are brought up with a sense of values.

While schools must, and many already do, play their part the whole issue of bringing up the next generation must be the responsibility of us all.

Moral values cannot simply be taught, they must also be caught from those around, including parents.

If teachers are to play their part successfully, as Nick Tate suggests, then there must be a consensus that provides a positive climate for the teachers' role to be fulfilled. This consensus must not only be about what children are taught in schools: it should also be about what constitutes acceptable values for adults.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDREWS,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
2 St James' Court, Friar Gate, Derby.
January 15.

From Mrs S. E. Lampitt

Sir, Morality is a practical problem, not a theoretical one. Children have no difficulty in learning the rules: the concept is very well taught in schools; children know that honesty is right, *prejudice is wrong and that the strong* should protect the weak.

However, they also know that this is not what happens in the real world. Being astute, they apply the rules selectively and in their own favour, just as the adults do.

There are plenty of exceptions, but in general, adults have given themselves licence to obey what rules they choose and children will follow suit, set them what essays we may.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. LAMPITT,
Thelsford Farm,
Charlecote, Warwickshire.

From Mr G. J. Hancock

Sir, Is Dr Tate acting in the best interest of schoolchildren by instilling the *virtues of honesty, respect for others*, politeness, a sense of fair play, patience, etc? Is he not deterring children from future lucrative careers, for example, in politics, journalism, top management and finance?

Yours faithfully,
G. J. HANCOCK,
21 Scotts Lane,
Brookville, Thetford, Norfolk.
January 15.

Kind hearts and crowded trains

From Mr Francis Wilford-Smith

Sir, The decline of male chivalry in the face of feminine fortitude in overcrowded trains and buses is not an entirely new phenomenon (Giles Coren's article, "Standing up for gallantry", January 15). In 1943 an eager young 16-year-old Merchant Navy radio officer on his first voyage, I sailed across to New York, where we docked in Brooklyn. Once ashore I wasted no time in leaping aboard the subway, bound for Times Square, the bright lights and adventure.

The carriage filled, and eventually a powerful, heavily-built woman straphung before me. Acutely conscious of my upbringing, my school, my new naval uniform, my ambassadorial role and the honour of my country, I bounded to my feet and offered her my seat.

She looked me very slowly up and down, and in a vicious, nasal Brooklyn voice so chill that it *froze me to the spot she replied*: "Whaddsa madder — is yer ass sore?"

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS WILFORD-SMITH,
Bentleys Farm,
Bosbury, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

From Mrs Marian Lampert

Sir, I am female and 52 years of age. Many parts of me are, sadly, falling down, and some are best supported in a seated position. I positively long to meet Giles Coren on a train.

As for the "consensus on pregannt women getting seats", perhaps this is something new? Some 25 years ago, also travelling between Camden Town and Euston and nine months pregnant, I found the only person to offer me a seat was old enough to be *the forthcoming baby's great-grand*parent — and female to boot.

Yours faithfully,
MARIAN LAMPERT,
Grange Corner,
The Avenue, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Maggie Campbell Pedersen

Sir, I sympathise with Giles Coren in not knowing to whom he should offer a seat on the Tube. I recently offered mine to a blind woman, only to be shouted at: her guide-dog pushed off down the carriage, where he lay down, obviously as bewildered as Mr Coren.

Let us hope that chivalry is not dead but merely dormant, and that compliments will again be acceptable too.

Yours sincerely,
MAGGIE CAMPBELL PEDERSEN,
36 Fairlawn Grove, W4.
January 15.

From Mrs John Rabson

Sir, Perhaps travellers of either sex who would like to be offered a seat should wear something to indicate this? I fear though that a lapel badge with *Yes Please* might be misunderstood.

Yours faithfully,
ROSY RABSON,
The Limes Farmhouse,
Eyke, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
January 15.

From Dr A. F. Ollerenshaw

Sir, Mr Coren's reply to the woman who told him that she was only 38, and as capable of standing up as he was, should have been: "I do apologise, madam. I took you to be a lot older."

Yours sincerely,
A. F. OLLERENSHAW,
52 Lightfoot Lane,
Preston, Lancashire.

Points on pens

From Mrs Sheila Jennings

Sir, I was amused to read that the head of Invicta Girls' School in Maidstone has banned the use by her pupils of ballpoint pens to encourage good handwriting (report, January 13).

In the 1930s my school banned the use of fountain pens for the same reason. We continued to use pen, nib and inkwell.

In spite of this precaution my handwriting has always been considered dreadful.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA JENNINGS,
60 Rembrandt Way,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
January 15.

From Dr Jon V. Pepper

Sir, Some will recall ballpoint pens being frowned on in schools 40 or 50 years ago. The reason then was that they were messy and unreliable — particularly the blue ones.

But I also recall that while fountain pens, particularly the better ones, may have encouraged decent handwriting, they also led to chronic outbreaks of thievery in school, something much less serious with ballpoints. Fountain pens would also mean a return to inky fingers and clothes.

It's easy to hanker after the excellencies of the past, whilst ignoring the discomforts and disadvantages. Anyway, I find that most of my students now turn in computer-produced work, which not only is easier for my tired old eyes to read, but is increasingly better organised and presented.

Yours etc,
JON V. PEPPER,
18 Frank Dixon Way,
Dulwich, SE21.
January 13.

Paris by rail

From Mr Peter Fynn

Sir, How thoroughly British were the complaints from Anthony Field and Elodie Stanley (letters, January 18) about the alleged shortcomings of Eurostar. Seemingly unable to accept the novelty of being able to travel in luxury from Waterloo to the Gare du Nord in three hours, must we remain forever poised to whine about anything and everything new or different?

We, too, travelled by Eurostar to Paris last weekend. We found the service and comfort excellent in both directions, and the journey genuinely exciting in its own right.

Come, Dr Field and Mrs Stanley, whatever happened to adventure and romance? Or maybe my own view of the trip was coloured by the delightful presence of my companion, who had the "last tuna sandwich" and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FYNN,
14 Milton Gardens,
Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

Broadly viewed

From Mr Martin Wooller

Sir, If your report of January 16 is to be believed ("Earl rebuilds his family's Victorian telescope") the third Earl of Rosse not only observed "objects hitherto seen only as dim areas of light" with the "Leviathan of Parsonstown", but also constructed its mirror from neutron-star material.

Seven inches in diameter and weighing four tons? According to my reference books, William Rosse's reflector was 6ft wide.

Yours,
MARTIN WOOLLER,
3 Cliff Terrace,
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

A new Hell

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (retd)

Sir, Hell (letters, January 13). I will feel safer, thank you, with the unequivocal teaching of Jesus as it stands in my (Jerusalem) Bible than with any comfortable *fin de millénaire* revisionism. Matthew xxv, 31-46, is the place to look for Our Lord's description of the Last Judgment and, in this context particularly, his terrible words to the cold-hearted: "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels".

A Christian teacher who seeks to disguise the import and gravity of so clear a warning, or to put a comfortable gloss on it, seems to me to be standing in considerable personal danger.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.

From Mr Richard Lines

Sir, In rejecting the old teachings about hellfire and damnation the Church of England is more than 200 years behind the times. The Swedish seer, Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), thought that God, who is Love itself, condemns no one but that human beings are free to choose either Heaven or Hell (which are states of consciousness, not "places") by the way in which they conduct their lives.

The only burning in Hell is a "burning" of selfish desires. Swedenborg did not believe in the soul's extinction but taught that Divine Providence cares even for those who have chosen Hell as their final state.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LINES (Vice-President),
The Swedenborg Society,
Swedenborg House,
20-21 Bloomsbury Way, WC1.

Hope for homeless

From the Director of St Martin-in-the-Fields Social Care Unit

Sir, I enjoyed Matthew Parris's article about the homeless "Mr Brown" and his temporary residence in a Strand shop doorway (January 15) but felt it ended on a note of unnecessary nihilism. Mr Brown's plight is "without meaning", he says, and there is nothing to be done about him and his like.

What an irony that Mr Parris was en route to a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Mr Brown has been known here under his proper name for many years. His sometimes zany opinions are only one aspect of the whole person. His presence in church and at our soup kitchen and in our day centre for homeless people all have meaning. It is a meaning to do with his individual value and his acceptance within the community here.

In time Mr Brown will undoubtedly be resettled. St Martin's will no doubt contribute to that process, as will the time commendably given by Mr Parris.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER SHALJEAN,
Director, St Martin-in-the-Fields Social Care Unit,
6 St Martin's Place, WC2.

A gifted forger

From Mr John Donovan

Sir, Your obituary of Eric Hebborn (January 13) dwells greatly on his notoriety as an expert forger in the 1960s and 1970s. Less known, but nevertheless worthy of mention, were his redoubtable gifts of sculpture.

These abilities were evidenced by exhibitions in Paris and London and his one-man show at the Alwyn Gallery in the late 1970s, which was a sell-out. At the same time, Eric was undertaking *private commissions in bronze* portraiture whilst living in Anticoli Corrada.

Marie Gray, a discerning art dealer at that time and one who had known Epstein, thought Hebborn's work as good, if not better, a view supported by those fortunate enough to own an original Hebborn. Sadly, the rewards of forgery distracted him from pursuing his undoubted talents in this field.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DONOVAN,
Great Rissington Farm,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Of mice and man

From Monsignor T. G. McKenna

Sir, Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop (letter, January 13) seems to have let the cat out of the bag. The mice on the pews of the garrison church at Catterick Camp are the work of the woodworking firm of Robert Thompson, of Kilburn, North Yorkshire, whose "trademark" of a mouse adorns ecclesiastical and secular furniture far and wide.

If so, may the firm expect an *ex-gratia donation from the estate of* Terence Cuneo (letters, January 8).

Yours faithfully,
T. G. McKENNA,
Corpus Christi Presbytery,
Alfred Street,
Rainford, St Helens, Merseyside.

From Mr Hugh Rigg

Sir, The mouse trademark of the well known Yorkshire woodcarver, Robert Thompson, of Kilburn (1876-1955) can be seen on furniture in more than 700 churches, as well as schools, homes and offices in Britain and abroad including the library of my old school, St Peter's, York.

The idea came to him when he was carving a church beam and a colleague made a remark about their being *as poor as church mice*:

> On the spur of the moment I carved one. Afterwards I decided to adopt the mouse as a trademark, because I thought how a mouse manages to scrape and chew away the hardest wood with his chisel-like teeth ... Nobody takes much notice. I thought that was maybe like this workshop, hidden away in the Hambleton Hills (*The Shell Guide to England*, 1970).

Yours sincerely,
H. RIGG,
Royal Cottage, Damerham,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

From Mr Nicholas Redman

Sir, Following the joint visit of the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to Whitbread's Brewery in London in 1962, the board *commissioned Terence Cuneo to paint* a picture to commemorate the historic event. The painting has been on display here ever since and visitors can see how Cuneo not only added his famous mouse signature, but most thoughtfully and appropriately provided the little chap with his very own glass of Whitbread's beer.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS REDMAN
(Archivist),
Whitbread plc, Chiswell Street, EC1.

Discarded Tardis

From Mr David Orme

Sir, Dr Gospel (letter, January 17) claims that there is *another* police box on the prom in Scarborough. It is, of course, the same one as in Hendon.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ORME,
28 Cranbourne Road, N10.
January 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 19: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), this afternoon received Colonel Hugh Willmore upon assuming the appointment of Honorary Colonel, 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), afterwards received Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Moss upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Rider upon assuming the appointment.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 19: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning visited Castlebar College to meet Gaisce, The President's Award, participants and leaders at Castlebar, County Mayo.

His Royal Highness later attended a Gaisce Reception and Luncheon at Ashford Castle, County Mayo.

The Prince Edward this afternoon arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from the Republic of Ireland.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 19: The Princess Royal left Royal Air Force Lyneham this afternoon to visit Ireland and was received at Dublin Airport by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland (Mrs Veronica Sutherland).

Her Royal Highness later opened the new British Embassy and this evening attended a Dinner given by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Glencairn.

The Hon Mrs Louloudis is in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

January 19: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Northamptonshire Association of the Blind, today visited Northampton to mark the Association's Centenary and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

In the morning Her Royal Highness attended a Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church and subsequently attended a Reception at the Guildhall.

In the afternoon The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Nimbus Laboratories, Lower Farm Road, Moulton Park and later visited Wardington Court, Welford Road, Kingsthorpe.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Today

The *Princess Royal*, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Ireland v Scotland international rugby match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin.

Events

Today

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Tomorrow

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Baron Bowness

The life barony conferred upon Sir Peter Spencer Bowness has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Bowness, of Warlingham in the County of Surrey and of Croydon in the London Borough of Croydon.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Sir David Landale to succeed Sir Hugh Campbell Byatt as chairman of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Committee for Scotland, on February 1.

Birthdays

TODAY: Dr Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut, 66; Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation architect, 84; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 60; Mr George Burns, actor and comedian, 100; Mr Justice Chadwick, 55; Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player, 58; the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral, 67; Lord Ewing of Kirkford, 65; Sir David Fell, civil servant, 53; the Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 78; Miss Liza Goddard, actress, 46; Lord Hanson, 74; the Marquess of Headfort, 64; Major Dick Hern, racehorse trainer, 75; Mr J.K. Ind, former Headmaster, Dover College, 61; Air Vice-Marshal the Ven B.H. Lucas, former Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, 56; Mr David Lynch, film producer, 50; Commandant Vonla McBride, former director, WRNS, 75; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 51; Mr Max Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst Prison, 52; Dr Jessica Rawson, Warden, Merton College, Oxford, 53; Mr Natan Sharansky, Soviet dissident, 48; Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 57; Mr Nigel Williams, novelist, 48; Mr John Witherow, Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 44.

TOMORROW: Mr M.J. Boleat, former director-general, Association of British Insurers, 47; Dr Alan Borg, director, Victoria and Albert Museum, 54; Sir John Burnett, former Vice-Chancellor, Edinburgh University, 74; Dr Rohan Butler, historian, 79; Dr David Carey, former legal secretary to Archbishop of Canterbury, 79; Lord Cayzer, 86; the Rev J.S. Coventry, SJ, former Master, St Edmund's House, Cambridge, 81; Mr John Denison, former director, South Bank Concert Halls, 85; Mr Placido Domingo, tenor, 55; Mr John Dring, head of HM Prison Service College, 50; Mr George Foulkes, MP, 54; Dr John Hayes, former director, National Portrait Gallery, 67; Mr Ken Maginnis, MP, 58; Sir George Middleton, diplomat, 86; Mr Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 56; Lord Justice Phillips, 58; Miss Seona Reid, director, Scottish Arts Council, 46; Mr Paul Scofield, actor, 74; Mr Aubrey Singer, former managing director, BBC Television, 69; Mr Christopher Stewart-Smith, former president, Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 55; the Marquess of Tavistock, 56; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge, 76; Mr Laurence Whistler, glass engraver, 84; Mr Norman Willis, former General Secretary, TUC, 63.

KIPPA MATTHEWS

Greenwich launches out

THE *MV Royalty*, above, yesterday launched a bold attempt to promote Greenwich as the "natural capital" of the millennium celebrations. It is the first of two launches promoted by the National Maritime Museum that are decked out in new livery with the slogan "A Voyage Through History to Where Time Begins".

They will operate a regular service between Westminster Pier and Greenwich in the hope of increasing the number of visitors to the museum from about 700,000 last year to more than a million by the end of the century.

Allan Reed, director of Royal River Thames, said the launches' more informed, multilingual commentary underlined the increasingly important role that the river would play in the millennium celebrations.

Dinners

The Earl of Lauderdale

The Earl of Lauderdale entertained the Defence and Security Forum at their annual dinner held last night at the House of Lords. Lady Olga Maitland, MP, presided. General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, was the guest speaker. Mr Anthony Mudd also spoke.

Royal Society of Medicine

Dr Paul Knapman, president of the section of Clinical Forensic Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine, received Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, at a dinner held last night at 1 Wimpole Street. Sir Donald Harrison, Sir John Dellow and Assistant Commissioner Anderson Dunn were among the guests.

Supper

Caledonian Club

Lord Ramsay, President of the Caledonian Club, was in the chair at a Burns night supper held last night at 9 Halkin Street, SW1. Mr Donald Urquhart was the principal speaker. Professor David Purdie and Professor Jan McDonald also spoke.

Leeds Grammar School

Term commenced on January 9, with Mansoor Ahmed as Head of School. The Governors have resolved to proceed with the relocation project and have appointed contractors who have started work on the new site. Construction is due for completion in the summer of 1997 and the Michaelmas Term will begin in September that year at Alwoodley Gates.

Latest wills

The Hon Mark Robin **Balfour**, of Bamford, Derbyshire, chairman, 1971-75, left estate valued at £592,321 net.

Mr Alfred Augustus Levi **Caesar**, of Cambridge, former lecturer in geography at Cambridge University and Senior Tutor of St Catharine's College, left estate valued at £563,100 net.

Mrs Helen Lyal **Hudson**, of Carleton, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,541,846 net. After various personal bequests she left the residue equally between the RNLI, Royal British Legion, SSAFA, RAF Benevolent Fund, National Trust, and the Salvation Army.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A. Blair
and Miss J.D. Lamming

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs D.G. Blair, of Chelmsford, Essex, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.D. Lamming, of Angmering, West Sussex.

Mr J.C. Crawford
and Miss S.M. Adams

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Crawford, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Simone, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Adams, of Torquay, Devon.

Mr A.J. Duffy
and Miss S.M. Christie

The engagement is announced between Andrew James, son of Mr Declan and Mrs Noreen Duffy, of Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, and Sharon Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christie, of Tauranga, New Zealand.

Mr N.J. Edmonds
and Miss J.M.R. Foster

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs B.J. Edmonds, of Folkestone, Kent, and Jacquetta, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.D. Foster, of Neston, Cheshire.

Mr J.C.M. Graham
and Miss C.A. Brus

The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Major-General and Mrs John Graham, of Christchurch, Barbados, and Tia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Phil Brus, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr S.N. Hobbs
and Miss E.C. Frankcom

The engagement is announced between Sebastian Nicholas, only son of Mr M.G. Hobbs, of Milton, Ontario, Canada, and Mrs M.F. Folds, of Motterham St Andrew, Cheshire, and Emma Caroline, only daughter of Mr G.K. Frankcom, of Arundel, West Sussex, and Mrs M.A. Frankcom, of Chelsham, Surrey.

Mr R.T. Johnstone
and Miss E.P. Entwisle

The engagement is announced between Roderick Tobias, elder son of Mr James Johnstone, of Lowestoft, and Mrs Norah Johnstone, of Canterbury, and Emma Patricia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Entwisle, of Woodham Mortimer, Essex.

Mr A.B. Kinch
and Miss H.C. Quinnell

The engagement is announced between Helen Catherine, younger daughter of the Revd and Mrs Peter Quinnell, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Anthony Basil, elder son of Mr and Mrs Basil Kinch, of Chimney on Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.J. Lonergan
and Miss I.D.H. Owen

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Edmond Lonergan, of South Dennis, Massachusetts, and Iolanthe, daughter of the late Mrs Penelope Owen and of Mr and Mrs John Owen, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

Mr A.J. Gray
and Miss L.D. Berridge

The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Gray, of Halstow, Devon, and Lucy, daughter of the late Mr Brian Berridge and of Mrs Brian Berridge, of Dewlish, Dorset.

Mr D.A. Kidd
and Miss J.M. Sherman

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr R.L. Kidd, of Fareham, and Mrs K. Kidd, of Christchurch, Hampshire, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Sherman, of Poulshot, Wiltshire.

Mr L.M. Ingram
and Miss J.E. Orr

The engagement is announced between Leslie, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Ingram, of Shepperton, Middlesex, and Jane, only daughter of the late Mrs P. Orr and of Mr Anthony Orr, of Isleworth, Middlesex.

Colonel E.J. Mayo
and Mrs P.J. Shimwell

The engagement is announced between John Mayo, of Sehore House, Camberley, son of the late Rev and Mrs T.E. Mayo, and Pamela Shimwell, of Ballamoar Castle, Isle of Man, wife of the late Derrick W. Shimwell and daughter of Mrs Dorothy Scott and the late Mr Stanley Jones, of West Kirby, Cheshire.

Mr D.P. Rose
and Dr R.M. Tinker

The engagement is announced between David Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Eric Rose, of Sheffield, and Rachel Mary, daughter of the Revd Prebendary Eric and Professor Anthea Tinker, of London.

Mr A.N. Ryan
and Miss K.J. Peters

The engagement is announced between Andrew Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Richard Ryan, of Southport, Lancashire, and Katharine Julia, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs David Peters, of Cold Brayfield, Buckinghamshire.

Marriage

Mr C.H. Meek
and Miss K.M. Fairclough

The marriage took place on Saturday, January 13, 1996, at the Church of St Mary, North Aston, between Mr Charles Harry Meek, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ian Meek, of Winding Wood, Berkshire, and Miss Katherine Mary Fairclough, eldest daughter of Mr Richard Fairclough, of Berwick Salome, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Michael Watson-Smyth, of North Aston, Oxfordshire. The Rev Michael Roden officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Isabella Fairclough, India Lewis, Georgina Courtenay-Stamp and Thomas Meek. Mr Jeremy Courtenay-Stamp was best man.

A reception was held at North Aston Hall.

Church services tomorrow

Church services tomorrow, the Third Sunday after Epiphany, include:

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), The Provost; 6.30 EP, The Chaplain; 7.30 Three Cathedrals Services.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Choral C, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon); 3.30 Choral E, Thou wilt keep him (Wesley).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), O salutaris hostia (Nicholson), Rev T Pyke; 4 Choral E, O pray for the peace (Howells).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, From the rising of the sun (Ouseley); 10.30 Euch, Canon R Braithwaite; 4 Choral E, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers), Canon M Taylor.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Choral E, Rejoice the Lord is King (Archer), The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), Rev R Symon; 3.15 E, O gloriosissima semper virgo (Tallis); 6.30 United Services, Christian Unity, Dr G Smyth.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Mgr G Turner; 3 E, Lo, star-led chiefs (Crotch).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev J Jones; 6 Choral E, O pray for the peace (Howells), Canon D Knight.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Te Deum (Elgar), Canon T Dennis; 11.30 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells); 3.30 Choral E, Almighty God who by the leading of a star (Bull); 6.30 EP.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Te Deum (Williams), Jubilate (March), Omnes de Saba (Handl), The Priest Vicar; 11 S Euch, Quem vidistis, pastores (Malcolm), Rev E Blennerhassett; 3.30 E, Bairstow in D; Lo star-led Chiefs (Crotch); 6.30 Unity Services.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Short service (Byrd), The Dean; 11.15 S Euch, Omnes de Saba (Handl); 6 E, Reges Tharsis (Sheppard).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, O living bread (Whitlock), Rev B Stops; 5.30 E, Let the people praise thee (Mathias).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Perry; 10 M, Videntes stellam (Poulenc), Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), Rev B Fyall; 3.30 E, Verbum caro factum est (Sheppard).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), O nata lux de lumine (Tallis), Canon Green; 3.45 E, The heavens are telling (Haydn).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), The Dean; 11.15 M, Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling (Berlioz), Rev D Davies; 3 E, There shall be a star (Mendelssohn); 6.30 E, O come ye servants of the Lord (Tye), Canon D Ison.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa in tempore Paschali (Moore), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev M Beck; 11.15 M, Te Deum (Britten), Great and marvellous (Tomkins), Canon J Schofield; 6.30 E, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev G Beck.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, A Gaelic Blessing (Rutter), Rev C White; 4 Choral E, O what their joy (Harris), The Chancellor; 5.45 United.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Look up, sweet babe (Berkeley), A New Year carol (Britten), The Dean; 3.30 E, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Rev K Devooght; 11.15 M, O little sweet one (Bach), Canon P Dadd; 3.45 E, When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem (Mendelssohn).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Sancte Nicholai (Haydn), Canon M Boyling; 3 Choral E, Sumsion in G, Rev G Davies; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 12.15 Holy Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 11 S Euch, O praise the Lord, all ye heathen (Batten), The Dean; 3.30 Christian Unity; 6.30 E & Sermon, Rev J Redvers.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass (Stravinsky), The Dean; 6.30 E, Ireland in F; Canon A Radcliffe.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 6.30 E, Light of the world (Elgar).

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon P Strange; 9.30 S Euch, Benedictus (Mozart), Rev K Widdows; 6.30 Christian Unity, St John the Baptist, Sister Boulding.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Treasurer; 10 Euch, Sarum Mass (Leighton), Lully, lulla (Leighton), Rev J Robinson; 11.30 M, O little one sweet (Bach), Very Rev Hugh Dickinson; 3 E, Praise the Lord all ye Gentiles (Gibbons).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Noel nouvelet (Jackson), I saw a maiden (Pettman), Rev G Swinton; 3 E, Myn Lyking (Terry), Rev D Atkinson.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Chancellor; 10 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Dean; 6 E, We praise thee O God (Stanford), The Treasurer.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon J Knox; 9.15 Parish C, Canon D Baxter; 11 Solemn Euch, O come ye servants of the Lord (Tye), Rev J Brown; 4 E, From the rising of the sun (Ouseley), Rev W Wearn.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Ven R Acworth; 11.30 M, The three kings (Cornelius); 3 E, Service for the five voices (Weelkes), Videntes stellam (Poulenc), Rev I White.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Br P Moore; 11.15 Euch, O nata lux (Tallis), Jesu meine Freude (Bach), Rev J McIndoe; 3 E, See see the World is incarnate (Gibbons), Rev Dr A Harvey; 5.45 Organ; 6.30 Christian Unity, Rt Rev M Mayne.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn M, O sing unto the Lord a new song (Tomkins); 3.30 Solemn V&B, O salutaris hostia (Elgar); 4.30 Organ.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, In the bleak midwinter (Darke); 11.30 Euch, Kyrie Gott heiliger Geist (Bach); 3.30 E, A hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Rev C Stewart.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, The Provost; 11 M, The heavens declare the glory of God (Boyce), R Strauther; 3.15 E, Almighty God who by the leading of a star (Bull); 5.45 Healing, J Watson.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Rev S Burgess; 11.30 M; 4 E, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers), Rev L Stanbridge.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, The three kings (Cornelius), The Canon; 3.30 Choral E.

ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), The Dean; 6 Choral E, O thou sweetest source (Wood).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, K.49 (Mozart), Ave verum (Mozart), Mgr J Hine.

ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), The Minister; 11.30 R Burns Bicentenary, Rt Rev J Harkness, Praise the Lord in all his splendour, J Bach; 6 Concert of voices; 8 E, The Minister

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Virga Jesse floruit (Bruckner), Rev M Saward; 3.15 E, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Rev C Calver.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 HM, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E&B, The three kings (Cornelius), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place: 9 C; 11, Rev R Bewes; 6.30 All Souls Orchestra, Rev S Wookey.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass III of 1651 (Monteverdi), Magnificat primi toni (Lassus).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 11 M, My soul there is a country (Parry) Dr G Lovell; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, Fr A Meredith, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11, Missa Brevis (Heiller), Jesu mei dulcissime (Grandi), Tantum Ergo (Alain); 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev J Peters; 11 Informal, Rev N Gumbel; 5 Informal, Rev S Millar; 7.30 Informal Mr J Jennings.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa festiva (Peeters), Jubilate Deo (Handl); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Adoramus te Domine (Merulo)

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr Gray.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC, Rev P Graves; 6.30 United Services.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Ven M Colclough; 7 V, Rev G Anderson.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicamus Domino (Warlock), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9, 11 S Mass, Salve Mater Misericordiae (Plainsong), Panis Angelicus (Franck)

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in D, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), The Rector.

ST JAMES, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford, E15: 11 Family Communion, Sonata No 1 (Mendelssohn), Rev D Horn; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev J Richardson.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Almighty & Everlasting God (Gibbons), Canon R Askew; 6.30 Choral E, Let all the world (Williams).

ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C, Missa Brevis (Gabrieli), The Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky), Rev A Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: 11 S Euch.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa S Dominici (Rubbra), Fr J Hadley; 6 Solemn E & Solemn B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass for a Saint's Day (Jackson), O quam gloriosum (Byrd), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Searching for Wholeness.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais), Deus noster refugium (Hassler), The Rector.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Sq, SW1: 10.15 Children; 11 MP, Rev C Marnham; 7 Informal Communion, Rev C Guinness.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley), Ave verum (Corelli), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 Missa sine nomine (Hassler), Fr D Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 Parish C, Missa Brevis (Caesar), Omnes de Saba venient (Handl), Rev G James; 6.30 Confirmation, If ye love me (Tallis), Ave verum (Elgar).

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn Mass, Missa Simile est Regnum (Guerrero), Cantate Domino (Hassler), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Videntes stellam (Poulenc), Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Here is the little door (Howells), Rt Rev J Taylor.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd); 3.30 E, Jehova quam multi sunt hostes me (Purcell).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Simile est regnum coelorum (Victoria), Salve salutaris victima (Philips), Rev S Hobbs.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Te deum laudamus (Britten), Jubilate Deo (Britten), Sacerdotes Domini (Croft), Rev R P Sargeant.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, The Lord hath manifested forth his glory (Ball), When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev J Cough; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: S Euch, Cascellini, The Legend (Tchaikovsky), Rev C French.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, Hanover, 1707; Wolfe Tone, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1763; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Lyons, 1775; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1944, Farsoe, Denmark, 1873.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Kherson, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, London, 1837; Jean François Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Charles Doughty, explorer in Arabia, Sissinghurst, Kent, 1926; King George V, reigned 1910-36, Sandringham, 1936.

Hong Kong was ceded to Britain from China, 1841.

The Commonwealth expedition led by Sir Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole, 1958.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, Confederate general in the American Civil War, Clarksburg, Virginia, 1824; Christian Dior, fashion designer, Granville, Normandy, 1905.

DEATHS: Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, poet and courtier, executed, London, 1547; Louis XVI, King of France, reigned 1774-93, executed, Paris, 1793; John Moore, physician and writer, London, 1802; Alexander Herzen, socialist, Paris, 1870; Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), Russian revolutionary, Gorky, 1924; Lytton Strachey, writer, Hungerford, Berkshire, 1932; George Moore, novelist, London, 1933; George Orwell (Eric Blair), novelist, London, 1950; Cecil B. de Mille, film producer, Hollywood, 1959.

Taxi cabs were officially recognised in Britain, 1907.

The first Monte Carlo car rally began, 1911.

Concorde made its inaugural flight to Bahrain, 1976.

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Woe betide the rebellious children, says the Lord, who, making plans, but not of my devising, pile sin on sin. Isaiah 30 : 1 (REB).

BIRTHS

ALLEN - On 2nd January, to Sally (née Collinge) and David, a son, Charles Henry, a brother for Emily, Lucy and William.

ANDERSON - On January 3rd 1996, to Jette (née Krarup) and Erik, a daughter, Alice Ruby Isobel.

BESWICK - On January 16th 1996, to Penny and Adrian, a son, Timothy, brother for Benjamin.

DOUGLAS MILLER - On January 13th at the Eastern General in Edinburgh, to Robbie and Cressida, a daughter, Honor Lezette Madeleine.

EL-HOSSNI - On 6th January at American Hospital, Paris, to Susan (née Calder) and Daniel, beautiful twin [illegible]

BIRTHS

SURRY - On 20th December, to Alison (née Payne) and Dominic, a daughter, Lucy Ellen, a sister for Nicholas.

TREASURE - On 7th January 1996, to Lucy and Stephen, a son, Robert Henry, a brother for Thomas.

TYLER - On 17th January 1996, to Rosemary and Simon, a daughter, Alice Siân, a sister for James and Sophie.

WALCOTT - On Tuesday January 16th, to Jayne (née Holmes) and John, a son, Tyler Joseph, a brother for Lauren.

DEATHS

[illegible]

BROGAN - William Garratt St. Stephen OBE, DL, of Gaddesby, Leicestershire, 19th January at home. Dear husband of Jean and loving father of Shaun, Piers and Simon. Family funeral and flowers. Memorial Service to be arranged. Donations, Army Benevolent Fund, 6 Clinton Terrace, Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1LZ.

BROWN - Dr. Bernard J. Family Doctor in Currie and Balerno, Edinburgh, died on 9th January 1996 aged 75 years. Memorial Service Saturday 3rd February 1996, 11 am at Currie Kirk. All welcome.

CASE - Ruth Evelyn peacefully on January 18th 1996 aged 89, beloved wife of the late Ken and dearly loved mother of John, Toby and the late Michael, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Mickleham, near [illegible]

HALVORSEN - Barbara, on January 18th, peacefully at home with her family. Beloved mother of Richard, Clifford and Gail, grandmother of Sam and Rebecca and widow of Toralf. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Whielden Lane, Winchmore Hill, Amersham on Friday 26th January at 1.30 pm. Donations welcome to The Chiltern M.S. Centre, Scarlett Centre, R.A.F. Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5PG.

LOVE - On January 18th at St George's Hospital, Milford-on-Sea, after a long illness, Desirée Marie (Dizzy), widow of W.J. Love, sister of the late Winifred Hood Phillips, brother of Patrick Shovelton and aunt, great-aunt and great-great aunt of the Love, Hood Phillips and Tyman families. Private cremation. Enquiries to F.W. House & Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington. (01590 673142).

NEWMAN - On Thursday January 18th 1996 peacefully in hospital, Isobel (Sandy) Huck of Melbourn, Cambs., in her 80th year. Dearly loved wife of the late James and a much loved mother, grandmother and sister. Funeral Service on Friday January 26th at 11.30 am at Cambridge City Crematorium. No flowers please but donations if desired to The National Osteoporosis Society c/o S. Newling & Son Funeral Directors, 2 Palace Gardens, Royston, Herts.

PITT - On January 19th, peacefully, at Nynehead Court, Wellington, Somerset, Lieutenant Colonel John Pitt, late Royal Artillery, widower of Veronica, formerly of Wootton Courtenay. Funeral at Nynehead Church at 11.45am on Thursday 25th January. Family flowers only.

RINGROSE - On Wednesday [illegible]

[illegible]

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

[illegible]

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

[illegible]

CONGRATULATIONS

[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

TRUSTEE ACTS

[illegible]

OBITUARIES

LORD GLENDEVON

Lord Glendevon, former *Conservative MP* and, as Lord John Hope, Minister of Works, 1959-62, died on January 18 aged 83. He was born on April 7, 1912.

THE younger twin son of the 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow, Lord John Hope *arrived in this world just* a few minutes too late to inherit the marquessate or Hopetoun House, the fine Adam seat which went with it, and its rolling acres leading down to the Firth of Forth. To some extent he was to live his early life in the shadow of his elder brother Lord Hopetoun (who became the 3rd Marquess in 1952), for Hopetoun was a vivacious and extrovert character, while Hope, though capable of being very funny, was possessed of a more gently contemplative personality.

In the parallel careers which the two *brothers were to follow in Parliament*, Linlithgow was to prove an erratic but effervescent presence in the Upper House while Hope put in long years of understated but committed service in the Commons. As a Conservative MP from 1945 to 1964 he distinguished *himself* by his old-fashioned *dedication* to duty, and his sense of service to others. "The fact remains that by and large the truth is noble," he insisted in one of his *speeches* to the House.

This spirit of public service and a dedication to what was perceived as truth ran in the blood of John Adrian Hope. His father, as Viceroy of India, had cut a somewhat lonely figure, his efforts to accomplish Indian federation bringing him into conflict with everyone from Mahatma Gandhi to the Right of the Conservative Party led by Winston Churchill. Hope inherited something of his father's fighting spirit. *Having been educated at* Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, he joined the Scots Guards in 1939 and was thrown almost at once into active service. Hope took part in the Battle of Narvik, in the actions at Salerno and Monte Cassino and was also later on the planning staff for the Anzio landing. He rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

His brother, meanwhile, had been taken prisoner and incarcerated first at Colditz and later Konigstein. Falling severely ill, he and Earl Haig, a fellow POW, would have died had Hasselman, the camp commandant, not defied Himmler's orders to move them on. After the war, when both Hopetoun and Haig had been flown home safely, the commandant Hasselman was tried for war crimes and died shortly afterwards in French custody. Hope, who on demobilisation in 1945 had been elected Conservative MP for Northern Midlothian and Peebles, showed a characteristic concern that justice should be done and joined forces with Haig to clear Hasselman's name. While Haig used his position in the House of Lords, Hope made a moving and successful appeal in the Commons for the commandant's estate to be freed for his widow.

However, Hope's staunch commitment to personal principle might have been at times an *impediment to his* career. As a young MP he fought hard to dissuade Conservatives from opposing the Indian Independence Bill. It was right in the middle of this campaign that Churchill, somewhat to Hope's astonishment, invited him to become his parliamentary private secretary. Hope knew his ideas at the time were out of sympathy with Churchill's. He declined the offer. "I did not tell Churchill the real reason," he later said. "Just that I wanted to stand on my own feet a bit longer. But he knew. He smiled and said, 'I quite understand'." The vacancy was in the end filled by Christopher Soames.

Hope did eventually become a junior minister in Churchill's Government in 1954 when he was made Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In 1956, in *Anthony Eden's Government*, he was Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations and, in 1957 under Harold Macmillan, he was appointed Under-Secretary for Scotland.

In 1959 Hope was appointed Minister of Works — a curious department nearly always outside the Cabinet but which traditionally bore some responsibilities for state occcasions. In 1960 it fell to him to supervise many of the arrangements for Princess Margaret's wedding. He presided over the Ministry of Works until July 1962 when he was one of the minor victims of Macmillan's "night of *the long knives*".

On leaving the Commons in 1964, Hope picked up the threads of a business career which he had been involved in before his appointment to government office. He reassumed his seat on various boards, including the Colonial Mutual Life Insurance Company and BET Omnibus Services. In 1964, the year in which he was created Lord Glendevon, he was appointed chairman of Geigy and in 1982 was appointed to the board of Standard Telephones and Cables.

Right to the end of his life Hope maintained his interest in the public sphere. His opinions were voiced frequently in the letters columns of *The Times* and, even as recently as 1992, he issued a stern admonishment to the Princess of Wales recommending that she should "take a pull" on herself for the sake of the Throne and the country. The Royal Family must "bear their cross and that's all there is to it," he said.

Hope, however, had many interests outside his working career. He enjoyed the tranquillity of fishing, although once, as a young man out with his brother on Loch Morar, he believed he might have hooked a monster — a creature "as heavy as an elephant" grabbed hold of his rod and dragged it into down into the dank depths. Hope was also an amateur painter and interested in the arts and the cultural heritage of Britain. For a time he was *chairman of the Historic Buildings* Council. At his home in Guernsey, where he moved for reasons of health, he enjoyed gardening — his wife, it is said, would have to summon him from the flower beds by vigorously ringing a bell. In 1971 Glendevon (as he was by then) wrote a book, *The Viceroy at Bay*, an uncritically nostalgic account of his father's viceroyalty in India.

Hope married Lisa Paravicini, the daughter of Somerset Maugham in 1948. When fifteen years later Maugham, hoping officially to adopt Alan Searle, the private secretary with whom he lived, opened an action against his daughter to revoke gifts of property he had made to her, she appealed successfully against the adoption.

Lord Glendevon is survived by his wife and their two sons.

N. T. RAMA RAO

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, Indian film star and politician, died on January 18 aged 72. He was born on May 28, 1923.

INDIAN politics, it is said, is dominated by three distinct idioms: the traditional, the modern and the saintly. In his tempestuous 14-year political career, N. T. Rama Rao successfully combined all three.

NTR, as he was always known, owed his initial popularity to his portrayal of mythological heroes in films made in Telugu (the language of Andhra Pradesh). He starred in over 320 productions in a film career that stretched from 1948 to his formal entry into politics in 1982, and became a cult figure in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh by variously playing Krishna, Ram, Ravana, Meghnad, Bheeshma and Duryodhana — characters from the epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* — in Telugu blockbusters. His role in *Venkateshwara Mahatyam* — a history of the famous Hindu temple in Tirupati — was celebrated with audiences praying before the screen and showering offerings of flowers and money.

Having made the transition from ordinary mortal to living deity, Rama Rao, in true south Indian fashion, turned to public life. By the early 1980s he had sensed the growing disen*chantment at Prime Minister* Indira Gandhi's imperious remote control of Andhra Pradesh from Delhi, after five chief ministers had been removed in two years, including one dropped for failing to be adequately deferential towards Rajiv Gandhi, the heir apparent.

Rama Rao protested against the affront to "Telugu pride". In 1982 he formed the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) with no support from entrenched political groupings in Andhra Pradesh. Undeterred, he barnstormed the state in his campaign bus, the *Chaitanya Raqtham* (chariot of awakening) and drew enthusiastic crowds. His theatrical oratory and costume changes — from saintly saffron to cowboy stetsons to the traditional white *dhoti* — earned him the sobriquet "Drama Rao".

The TDP's spectacular victory in the 1983 state assembly election catapulted Rama Rao to the national stage. As Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he was at the centre of moves by India's disparate non-Congress parties to forge a united front against Indira Gandhi. At one time Rama Rao even contemplated enlarging the TDP into a pan-Indian Bharat Desam Party.

Indira Gandhi pre-empted these plans with a constitu*tional coup that resulted in* Rama Rao's dismissal as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He took to the streets, and so strong was the popular antipathy to the new state government that the TDP regime was reinstated within a month.

Fortified with a fresh mandate in Andhra Pradesh in 1984, Rama Rao again turned his attention to national politics. In the campaign against Rajiv Gandhi, he was instrumental in creating the National Front — a loose, somewhat unwieldy, coalition of non-Congress parties — and became its chairman. But this preoccupation with winning power in Delhi proved costly; Rajiv Gandhi lost the 1989 election nationally but Rama Rao was voted out in his own state.

In late 1992 Rama Rao, who was then a widower, surprised everyone by abandoning his saffron robes and marrying his woman biographer Lakshmi Parvathi, a divorcee in her early forties. The marriage proved extremely unpopular with his immediate family, the more so when Lakshmi Parvathi displayed political ambitions. Ignoring the rumblings, Rama Rao remounted his *Chaitanya Ratham* mobilised for his comeback.

In the 1994 state election, the Rama Rao-Lakshmi Parvathi duo was an instant hit, drawing the same large crowds. Like him she proved an electrifying communicator, stepping in when exhaustion overcame her ailing husband. Combining populism with morality — rice at a ridiculously subsidised price and total prohibition within a month — they defeated the Congress party and won Andhra Pradesh back for the TDP.

It was a Pyrrhic victory. Angered by the growing "extra-constitutional role" of Lakshmi Parvathi, Rama Rao faced a revolt within his family and the party. He *refused to countenance her* withdrawal from public life, which prompted his son-in-law to split the party and wrest the chief ministership from him. Comparing himself to the Moghul emperor Shahjehan who was deposed by his son, Rama Rao was preparing for yet another political encore in this year's parliamentary election when he died.

He is survived by his widow, and by seven sons and four daughters by his first wife.

GEOFFREY FOXCROFT

Geoffrey Foxcroft, OBE, Head of Science at Rugby School, 1959-80, died in Cumbria on January 12 aged 71. He was born on June 19, 1924.

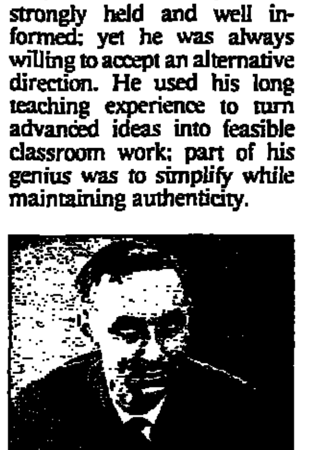
FOR more than 40 years Geoff Foxcroft was a committed teacher and a leading figure in science education. He helped to introduce modern physics into schools, was constantly at the forefront of developments in school apparatus and was a key member of the team which developed the Nuffield A-level physics course — a course which changed, for a generation, the teaching of physics after the age of 16.

Geoffrey Edward Foxcroft was born in Liverpool, where his father ran the Wyman's bookstall on Lime Street station. From Birkenhead Institute he won a scholarship to Cambridge, only to have his studies interrupted by the Second World War. He joined the Admiralty Signals Establishment and spent the war *calibrating battleship radar at* sea.

After teaching at Moseley Grammar School, Birmingham, he returned to Cambridge, leaving with a first. Posts at William Hulme School, Manchester, in 1950 and West*minster* School in 1952 preceded a move to Rugby School in 1958; he was to be an outstanding head of science there for 21 years.

This was an age of apparatus and curriculum develop*ment*. As a member of the Committee on the Teaching of Modern Physics, he spent years cajoling manufacturers to produce new and more suitable teaching apparatus. Much he designed himself. His unique lecturing and *demonstration style showed* his genius: lucid presentation and obvious enjoyment often concealed an earlier struggle to grapple with the practical and intellectual obstacles which lay between his vision and the inevitable constraints of the classroom.

In the Nuffield A-level physics project the personal chemistry of the team was a critical ingredient: here Foxcroft was an invaluable catalyst and writer. His views were both strongly held and well informed; yet he was always willing to accept an alternative direction. He used his long teaching experience to turn advanced ideas into feasible classroom work; part of his genius was to simplify while maintaining authenticity.



As head of science at Rugby School, his wider work brought many benefits. Generations of pupils experienced the latest curriculum developments as well as his unique enthusiasm and interest in physics. His deep commitment to science, coupled with a willingness to give time for anything, was the hallmark of a great science teacher.

Down the years he could be found in the school workshops at all hours of day and night, *sucking on his pipe and ad*dressing the latest apparatus repair, curriculum development or pupil problem. A constant stream of pupils — many now doctors and scientists — have cause to be grateful for his support and belief in them. He cared about people as well as about science; and it was typical that one of the last journeys he made — suffering badly from emphysema — was to the inaugural lecture of a former Rugby pupil as Cavendish Professor of Physics at Cambridge.

In leading his department he was firm, even fierce at times. His endless commitment to excellence did not always make him an easy colleague; there was often lively, even vigorous, debate — especially as he was open enough to appoint teachers who would challenge his views.

Foxcroft lectured abroad — in The Netherlands, Israel, Poland and Italy — under the auspices of Unesco and the British Council, ran regular courses in Wales and Northern Ireland and was a frequent speaker at meetings of *the Association for Science* Education. In 1976 he was appointed OBE for services to science education and in 1981 was awarded the Bragg Medal and Prize of the Institute of Physics. In 1986 he was elected to honorary membership of the Association for Science Education.

On his retirement in 1986 he moved to Cumbria but never seemed far away; he was closer, however, to his beloved "ratty", the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway. He was appointed a governor of Rugby School ten years ago and, despite advancing emphysema, remained in touch — not only with his many friends and colleagues but also with the latest developments in *science education*.

He is survived by his wife Collie, whom he married in 1946, and by a son and a daughter.

MINNESOTA FATS

Minnesota Fats, American pool player, died on January 18 aged 82. He was born on January 19, 1913.

MINNESOTA FATS was a dazzling pool player who was immortalised on film by Jackie Gleason in that great low-life sporting movie *The Hustler* (1961). It was a relatively small part for Gleason, but one which gave him the chance to prove himself as a serious actor. The highlight was when Gleason (as Fats) and Paul Newman (playing Fast Eddie), take each other on in a marathon match lasting 31 consecutive hours. Gleason — no mean pool player himself in real life — showed off a stunning repertoire of bank shots, massé shots and backspin. Like Fats, he was huge *but light as a bird on his feet*, immaculately dressed in a three-piece suit with a diamond ring sparkling on one pudgy finger.

However well the portrayal went down with the public, professional pool players in America were split over Gleason's charismatic impersonation of Fats, not least because it reopened one of the longest-running feuds in pool history: that between the real life Minnesota Fats and Willie Mosconi. Mosconi was the Babe Ruth of billiards (he refused to call *it* pool), the very opposite of Fats — handsome, professional and agile. He was determined to raise the game from the smokey basements in which it flourished to the status of a respectable American pastime. Fats stood for all the old ways — a self-promoting bar-room player, a flashy poolroom shark, a hustler: "If he could beat his uncle out of $2, he'd do it," complained Mosconi. Ironically, Mosconi had been called in as technical adviser on *The Hustler*, only to see the film make Fats, and all that he stood for, altogether more respectable.

In fact, Minnesota Fats only began calling himself Minnesota Fats soon after the film's release. Until then, he went by the name of New York Fats. *Afterwards he argued* that, since the character was so blatantly based on his own, he might as well profit from the film's success.

Fats was christened Rudolf Walter Wanderone Jr, and was intentionally vague about when he was born, sometimes claiming it was as early as 1900. Worshipped and overfed by his mother and three sisters as a baby, he was only two when his uncle first took him to a pool hall. He grew up in saloons, sitting on the edge of the tables, and shooting pool with one hand. *He never went* to school and by the age of ten he was beating grown men. Like Gleason, he swelled to impressive dimensions: standing at only 5ft 10in, he weighed as much as 300lb.

He was in his prime as a player from the 1930s through to the 1960s, when hustling provided his main source of income. He insisted on shaking an opponent's hand before start of play. If the palm was clammy (through nerves) *he increased his bet accordingly*. He was also a talkative man, and he spun a web of semi-fact and blatant fiction around his past: his romance with Mae West, for instance, and the time he played pool on a solid gold table in a sultan's palace in Baghdad. Notwithstanding the hype, he was an impressive player, and he beat the best players of his generation: Blue Hamilton and Cornbread Red.

Fats's career as a hustler necessitated a good deal of travel across the States, and *however fanciful the stories* were, they were hard to disprove. For this reason, long before Robert Rossen had made *The Hustler*, Fats had entered poolhall legend. But the film brought him celebrity with a new generation of players, and Fats, now living in Nashville, held court at the Stockyard nightclub six nights a week. His rival Mosconi eventually flushed him out of semi-retirement for a public contest in 1978. Unfortunately, *Fats was no match for* Mosconi's more accurate play, and was soundly beaten, but the game raised the profile of pool. Although never taken as seriously as snooker in this country, there is now a Mosconi Cup in which Alex Higgins and Jimmy White have competed.

Fats's last few years were not glorious ones, and like Mark Twain he had to suffer the ignominy of being presumed dead by some sports commentators, long before he actually died. Added to the misfortune of bad health, his first wife Evaline, to whom he had been married for 40 years, divorced him in the early 1990s. The strain of making so many public appearances *had, she complained, made* him tired and grumpy. But soon afterwards he married a 27-year-old, Theresa Ward, and she survives him.

ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1920

When a dog "of the Chow breed" was accused of chasing and worrying a flock of ewes in lamb, the judge remarked that the real question was whether the dog could establish an alibi.

KING'S BENCH DIVISION

ATTEMPT TO PROVE AN ALIBI FOR A DOG

Pegrum v Abbott

(Before Mr Justice Bailhache)

Judgement was given for the plaintiff in this case, a farmer, of Nazeing, Essex. He alleged that on December 6, 1918, a dog belonging to the defendant chased and worried a flock of sheep which were ewes in lamb. The plaintiff claimed damages as follows:

	£ s d
Three ewes killed at 100s each	15 0 0
One Sutherland ewe killed at 80s	4 0 0
Two Massam ewes worried, slaughtered on advice	10 0 0
Five Sutherlands worried, slaughtered on advice	20 0 0
	49 0 0
Less sum received for carcasses	5 10 0
	43 10 0
Estimated loss of lambs 69 at 20s	69 0 0
Loss of ewes, at 70s each	94 0 0
	£206 10 0

The defendant denied that a dog belonging to him had chased or worried a flock of sheep then or at any other time. The dog accused was of the Chow breed.

Mr Justice Bailhache — The real question in this case is whether the dog can establish an alibi.

Mr Ridgwell, a hay carter, said that on *December 6, 1918, about 12 o'clock he met* a flock of sheep on the Roydon road running hard with a black dog "with a face like a fox" chasing them. He shouted, and the dog turned and went back: he would know the dog in a million. He had known Mr Abbott's dog, *which was the only Chow dog in the district.*

On the other hand, Mr Abbott who on the day in question went up to London, said that the dog was there when he left at 9 o'clock and when he returned at 2 o'clock the dog was quite clean with no wool or blood on him. His housekeeper said that she had fed the dog as usual that day and he was quite clean.

Mr Justice Bailhache said that this was a case in which a dog which was not known before to have chased anything was said to have taken it into his head to chase this flock of sheep. He must accept the evidence given by Mr Ridgwell, who had positively identified the dog as the black chow.

The evidence to the contrary was that the *dog was at home at the time, but the* housekeeper was speaking of something which she did habitually, and the dog might easily have been away half an hour without being missed.

He (his Lordship) must find as a fact that the plaintiff had made out his case that this was the dog. He had come to the conclusion *that Mr Abbott, though he denied that his dog* was guilty, sent the dog away to London, as he thought that if a dog once did this sort of thing he would continue to do it. He thought the right estimation was 1½ lamb to a ewe, and the total damages should be assessed at £135.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

MULLORD (otherwise MULLARD) ARTHUR ERNEST of 2 Manning House, Fieldway Crescent, London N5 died on 11th December 1995. Particulars to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited, Executorship and Trustee Service, PO Box 15, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7UR (ref M2/PR/7026) before 29th March 1996.

Re EDNA IRENE RAWNSLEY deceased

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 notice is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of Edna Irene Rawnsley late of St. Anne's Home, 13 Birkdale Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire who died on 19th May 1995 and letters of administration to whose estate were granted on 16th January 1996 out of the Birmingham District Probate Registry to Muriel Briggs are required to send written particulars to the undersigned solicitors on or before 31st March 1996 after which date the administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which she then has had notice, and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she then has not had notice.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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STH

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1996

NEWS

Maxwell brothers cleared of fraud

■ Kevin and Ian Maxwell, the two youngest sons of the media tycoon Robert Maxwell, were cleared yesterday of a £122 million conspiracy to defraud company pensioners in a dramatic finish to an eight-month trial which could spell the end of the Serious Fraud Office. Larry Trachtenberg, an American, was also cleared of all charges.......................................Pages 1, 2-4, 21

City mocks Serious Farce Office

■ There were calls last night for dramatic changes in the way the Serious Fraud Office operates. Senior City figures and former SFO officers said that they had watched in disbelief as trial after costly trial had foundered. Some have dubbed the organisation the Serious Farce Office..............................Page 1

Chechens surrender

The Chechen sympathisers holding 170 hostages on the Turkish ferry *Avrasya* surrendered to security forces after contacting lawyers from the vessel.... Pages 1, 12

Walking tall

A woman paralysed in a car accident can stand again with the aid of a computer-operated device implanted in her spine.......... Page 7

Chief teacher

A teacher at a Norfolk girls' school who launched an education programme in Ghana is to become chief of an African tribe.... Page 8

Bank bites back

A couple compensated by Lloyds Bank for its bad property advice were ordered to pay the bank more than £250,000.................. Page 9

Major's vision

The social chapter is an immoral European tax on jobs, John Major said, presenting his vision of an "enterprise economy"...... Page 10

Sermon supremo

The search for the country's top preacher resumes today with the launch of the second Preacher of the Year Award................Page 11

Dole's rival

Robert Dole's main Republican rival, Steve Forbes, is a multimillionaire publisher with a Utopian vision........................Page 13

Conscription ends

French military conscription, in operation since 1789, is to be changed for a force of volunteers and professionals............ Page 14

Poll shootings

Israeli troops killed three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier was wounded hours before the Palestinian election....................Page 15

Holocaust avenger

A Bordeaux barrister is after Maurice Papon, the last senior Vichy survivor official suspected of complicity in the Holocaust... Page 16

Royal soap about slippery MPs

■ Politics will take a back seat to the romantic peccadilloes and financial shenanigans of MPs in *Annie's Bar*, a Channel 4 series made by Prince Edward's company, Ardent productions. It aims to be racier and more scurrilous than *Eastenders*......... Page 10

SIMON WALKER

Tony Blair learning how to control computers by eye movements at Loughborough University. Page 10

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Don't beatify me, Argentina: Madonna as Evita is apter casting than usual ... Page 21

THE PAPERS

Judging by her frequent jaunts, the spectacularly but unsurprisingly overdrawn Duchess of York seems to love foreign parts: America, where the royals are regaled and where she could pay off her overdraft on the lunchtime lecture circuit, awaits — *The Scotsman*

COLUMNS

Basil Hulme: There is a clear need to change attitudes and expectations towards marital relationships and bringing up children..............Page 20

Simon Jenkins: Over the past 20 years not one genuine case of rabies has been detected in quarantine. The policy is illiberal and obsolete. How does it survive?.........Page 20

OBITUARIES

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BUSINESS

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On the buses: Stagecoach Holdings, Britain's biggest bus company, continued its buying spree with the purchase of two Devon bus services, Devon General and Bayline.................... Page 25

Forte: Sir Rocco Forte intervened to keep the family company independent by buying almost four million shares in his own name.......... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 0.3 points to 3748.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.0 to 82.8 after a fall from $1.5230 to $1.5105 and from DM2.2376 to DM2.2351 .... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: England dismissed South Africa for 129 on a difficult pitch in East London in the sixth one-day international but struggled in reply........................Page 48

Rugby union: England would do well to revert to powerful forward play for their opening match in the five nations' championship against France..........Page 48

Football: The European Commission gave Uefa six weeks to end its transfer fee system and nationality restrictions or face legal action ....Page 48

Tennis: Richard Krajicek and Todd Martin, two of the seeds in the men's singles, were beaten in the Australian Open's third round ..Page 42

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Pompom power: In Texas, some girls will murder to be a cheerleader ....Page 25

Vivien Greene: Graham Green had many lovers, but only one wife..............Page 8

Hit squad: will *Trainspotting* be another hit for the *Shallow Grave* team?............Page 18

WEEKEND

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Books: Libby Purves on the memoirs of a wheelchair-bound war reporter plus yuppie fiction .....Pages 12-13

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The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Circus stars: the young stars of the all-human Cirque du Soleil on life as a circus animal .... Page 6

Win: a VIP trip to Coronation Street........................Page 3

Best: books, music, games and videos...............Page 10

VISION

The seven-day guide to television and radio

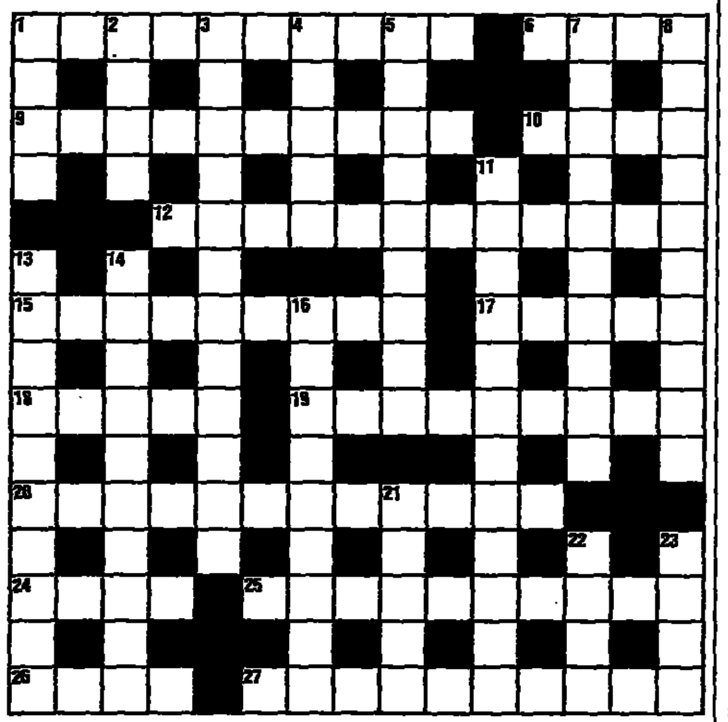
Cover story: Paul Merton stars as a modern Hancock in a series of Galton and Simpson comedy classics. Friday, ITV, 8.30pm

New blues: *NYPD Blue* returns in a new series. Thursday, Channel 4, 10pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,069

A limited edition. 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....



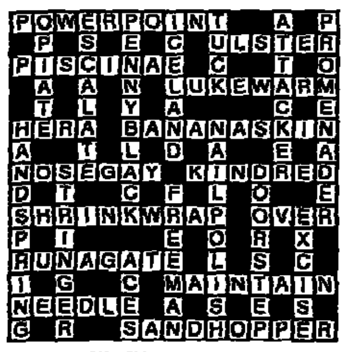
ACROSS

1 See what's in store for an outsider (6-4).
6 Characters in front of queue, say, looking down on others (4).
9 As mediator, 'e is received by leader of race (10).
10 Noticed new cut (4).
12 Representative steps on ladder for each boy (12).
15 Copy a restrictive rule, except for initial line (9).
17 Provide a view round wood (5).
18 Game in which county quickly succeeded (5).
19 Routine start of term — study philosopher and economist (9).
20 Pitch for performing a nocturne? (7,5).
24 Nine letters from here in return for one from abroad (4).
25 Relatively informative diagram of house (6,4).
26 Attention given to Liberal peer (4).
27 Lowest gain her doctor recorded — a stone (10).

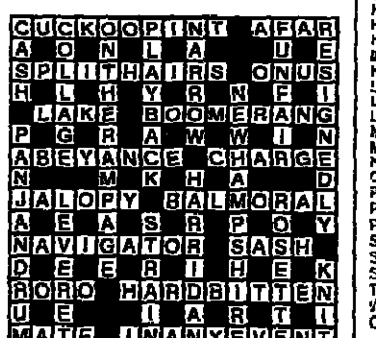
DOWN

1 Immersing page in water produced tears (4).
2 He allowed nothing odd on his vessel (4).
3 Potter's work men up in a shop ordered (3-9).
4 Carefully approach second speech (5).
5 Submission to live on island in stormy ocean (9).
7 Many in parties animated with it? (4,6).
8 Long nettle leaf (4,6).
11 Top sportsman as provider of music (6,6).
13 School subject (10).
14 'e isn't involved with water! (4-6).
16 Put together a small contract, for example, with speed (9).
21 Flower-girl with hot temper (5).
22 Life? That's about right (4).
23 HE has English in for wine (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,063



Solution to Puzzle No 20,068



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *A Palmer, Southampton; C G Stanton, Ealing; R H Penny, Estover, Plymouth; D R Carter, Madron, Penzance; M E Lillie, Ilminster, Somerset.*

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
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Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.56 am — Sun sets: 4.28 pm

Moon sets 4.58 pm — Moon rises 7.20 am

New Moon today

London 4.28 pm to 7.55 am
Bristol 4.38 pm to 8.04 am
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 8.27 am
Manchester 4.28 pm to 8.11 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 8.11 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.55 am — Sun sets: 4.30 pm

Moon sets 6.19 pm — Moon rises 8.00 am

First quarter January 27

London 4.30 pm to 7.53 am
Bristol 4.40 pm to 8.03 am
Edinburgh 4.22 pm to 8.26 am
Manchester 4.29 pm to 8.10 am
Penzance 4.57 pm to 8.10 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.01	7.0	1.28	7.2
Aberdeen	0.43	4.4	12.53	4.5
Avonmouth	6.43	12.7	7.10	13.8
Belfast	10.42	3.7	11.05	3.6
Cardiff	6.46	12.0	7.11	12.1
Devonport	5.15	5.6	5.44	5.4
Dover	10.37	6.7	11.02	6.8
Dublin (N Wall)	11.03	4.3	11.25	4.2
Falmouth	4.39	5.2	5.06	5.2
Greenock	-	-	12.17	3.5
Harwich	11.18	4.1	11.41	4.1
Holyhead	9.51	5.9	10.20	5.8
Hull (Albert D)	5.46	7.5	5.52	7.9
Ilfracombe	5.28	9.6	5.55	9.3
King's Lynn	5.40	6.8	6.01	7.2
Leith	1.53	5.6	6.36	5.4
Liverpool	10.47	9.9	11.14	9.8
Lowestoft	9.00	2.5	9.11	2.5
Margate	11.46	4.8	-	-
Milford Haven	5.43	7.2	6.08	7.2
Newquay	4.35	7.0	5.00	7.0
Oban	5.23	4.1	5.45	4.0
Penzance	4.07	5.7	4.32	5.6
Portland	6.19	2.2	6.43	2.1
Portsmouth	10.49	4.9	11.23	4.9
Shoreham	10.49	6.4	11.26	6.5
Southampton	10.16	4.7	10.47	4.7
Swansea	5.52	9.6	6.19	9.6
Tees	3.10	5.5	3.27	5.6
Walton-on-Naze	11.14	4.3	11.37	4.2

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aultbea, Highland, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Stansted airport Essex, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Western Isles, [illegible]; highest sunshine: [illegible] Grampian 2hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Showery but some bright spells. England and Wales will have a dull start to the morning with fog on the highest ground. During the day rain will affect Cornwall and west Wales but elsewhere brighter spells will develop.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will start rather grey with rain in the west and drizzle over the Grampians and Shetland. Wet and windy weather will continue across Northern Ireland.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, N Wales, NW England, Lake District:** Cloudy, becoming brighter, sunny spells. Dry after dark. Wind south-east becoming east, moderate. Rather cold in the wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, Central N, NE England, Borders:** Grey with mist patches. Brighter spells later but cloudy. Wind south-east becoming east moderate to fresh. Max 6C (43F).

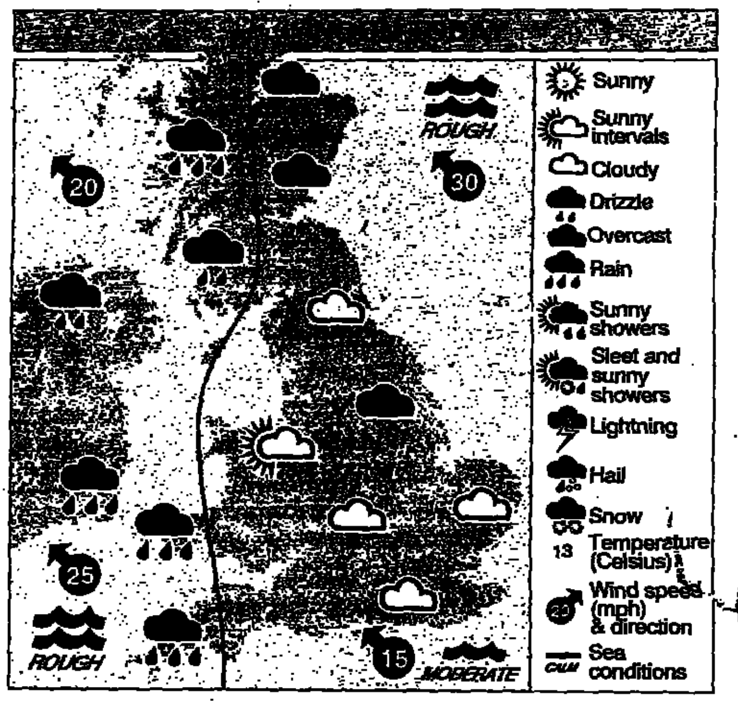
☐ **SW England, S Wales:** Rain or showers in the west, brighter in the east. Mainly dry after dark. Wind south-east fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Rain turning to drizzle. Mainly dry by dusk. Remaining cloudy. Wind south-east fresh or strong. Cold in the wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Mainly cloudy with drizzle at times. Wind south-east fresh to strong. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** Rain, heavy at times, mainly dry by midnight. Wind south-east fresh. Cold in the wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** Bright spells, especially in the west. Cold and windy everywhere.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

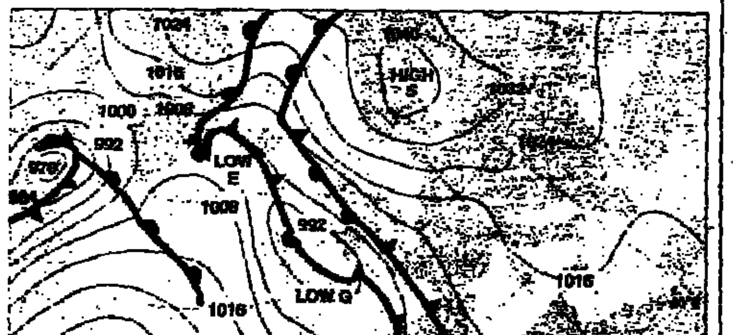
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.02	8	43	d	Littlehmptn	-	0.02	11	52	du
Anglesey	0.2	-	10	50	c	Liverpool	-	-	7	45	du
Aspatria	-	-	9	48	r	London	-	-	9	48	c
Aviemore	-	-	8	46	c	Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	du
Belfast	0.2	0.14	10	50	r	Manchester	-	-	7	45	du
Birmingham	-	-	6	43	fg	Margate	-	-	7	45	du
Bognor R	-	-	9	48	du	Minehead	2.7	-	12	54	b
Bournem'th	-	0.01	10	50	c	Morecambe	-	-	8	46	du
Bristol	-	-	11	52	b	Newcastle	-	-	5	41	du
Buxton	-	-	4	39	fg	Newquay	0.8	0.02	11	52	r
Cardiff	0.1	-	9	48	fg	Norwich	-	-	5	41	du
Clacton	-	-	6	43	c	Nottingham	X				
Colwyn Bay	2.6	-	10	50	b	Oxford	-	-	7	45	fg
Cromer	-	-	4	38	du	Penzance	-	0.05	11	52	r
Doncaster	X					Plymouth	X				
Dunbar	X					Poole	0.4	-	12	54	c
Edinburgh	-	-	7	45	du	Prestatyn	-	-	9	48	du
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	7	45	d	Ross-o-wye	0.2	-	9	48	c
Exmouth	1.0	0.05	11	52	c	Sandown	0.3	-	9	48	c
Falmouth	-	-	12	54	c	Saunton Snd	1.4	-	12	54	b
Fishguard	0.5	-	10	50	c	Scarboro'	-	0.01	4	39	d
Folkestone	-	-	7	45	du	Shanklin	0.2	0.04	9	48	c
Glasgow	-	-	8	46	r	Shrewsbury	-	-	7	45	r
Guernsey	0.6	-	11	52	c	Skegness	-	-	5	41	c
Hastings	-	-	8	46	c	Southend	-	-	6	43	du
Hayling I	-	0.01	9	48	du	Southport	-	-	7	45	b
Herne Bay	X					Southsea	-	0.02	9	48	c
Hove	-	-	9	48	du	Stornoway	-	0.62	8	46	r
Hunstanton	-	-	5	41	du	Swanage	1.4	0.01	11	52	b
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	0.6	0.01	12	54	c
Isle of Man	-	-	9	48	c	Tenby	X				
Jersey	5.3	0.01	10	50	s	Tiree	-	0.24	9	48	r
Kinloss	-	-	8	46	c	Torquay	1.2	0.02	12	54	b
Leeds	-	-	5	41	fg	Tynemouth	-	-	6	43	du
Lerwick	-	-	7	45	r	Ventnor	-	0.04	10	50	c
Leuchars	-	-	5	41	c	Weymouth	X	-	11	52	b

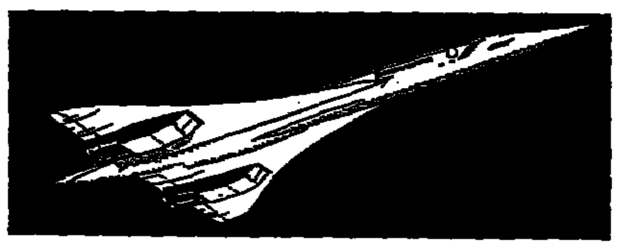
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	C'phagn	-1	30	fg	Malta	12	54	s	S Paulo	30	86	f
Akrotiri	13	55	f	Dublin	11	52	c	Melb'rne	20	68	s	Salzburg	-4	25	s
Alex'dria	13	55	c	Dubrovnik	10	50	s	Mexico C	18	64	s	Santiago	25	77	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Faro	15	59	f	Miami	26	79	f	Seoul	0	32	s
Amst'dm	-1	30	c	Florence	8	46	s	Milan	0	32	fg	Sing'por	30	86	s
Athens	8	46	f	Frankfurt	-2	28	sn	Montreal	6	43	-	St'kholm	-1	30	s
B Aires	26	79	c	Funchal	16	61	c	Moscow	-4	25	c	Strasb'rg	0	32	c
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	1	34	c	Munich	0	32	s	Sydney	28	82	s
Barcelona	13	55	f	Gibraltar	14	57	r	N Delhi	14	57	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	10	50	f	Helsinki	-3	27	sn	N York	2	36	c	Tel Aviv	8	46	r
Belfast	10	50	r	Hong K	26	79	s	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	21	70	f
Belgrade	0	32	s	Innsbrck	3	37	s	Naples	12	54	s	Tokyo	9	48	f
Berlin	-3	27	c	Istanbul	3	37	f	Nice	13	55	s	Toronto	10	50	f
Bermuda	21	70	s	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	-1	30	c	Tunis	12	54	r
Biarritz	15	59	s	L Angels	16	61	s	Paris	2	36	fg	Valencia	14	57	f
Borde'x	12	54	s	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	0	32	s	Vanc'ver	1	34	f
Brussels	1	34	d	Le Touquet	3	37	f	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	-1	30	fg
Budapest	-5	23	c	Lisbon	11	52	c	Prague	-4	25	c	Vienna	-4	25	c
Cairo	14	57	f	Locarno	5	41	s	Reykjavik	-4	25	f	Warsaw	-4	25	c
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Luxembg	-2	28	fg	Rhodes	11	52	s	Wash'ton	6	43	f
Ch'church	19	66	-	Luxor	16	61	s	Rio de J	35	95	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	-
Chicago	14	57	f	Madrid	10	50	f	Riyadh	19	66	s	Zurich	-2	28	c
Cologne	-1	30	c	Majorca	13	55	f	Rome	10	50	f				
Corfu	9	48	s	Malaga	15	59	f	S Fr'isco	12	54	r				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: high S will remain stationary over Scandinavia and gradually build. Low G will fill in situ. Low E will track northeast along the coast of Greenland and fill



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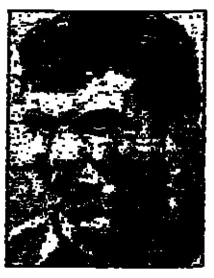
MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor on the Forte and Granada epic

MAXWELL 27

The anatomy of an administration



SPORT 42-48

England banking on tower of strength in Paris

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1996

David Crossland, whose company, Airtours admitted yesterday that it had been in bid talks with Carnival, the US cruise group based in Miami

Airtours in bid talks with cruise group

By Marianne Curphey

AIRTOURS, the travel company built up from humble beginnings into the UK's second largest tour operator, admitted yesterday it was in bid talks with Carnival Corp, the US cruise group.

Rumours had been rife since the end of last year that the cash-rich cruise company might make an offer for Airtours, founded 17 years ago by David Crossland, chairman.

But after Airtours' share price surged 38p to 438p yesterday before falling back to 433p, the company was forced to make a terse statement to the Stock Exchange.

On the closing share price, Airtours is valued at £500 million. Beeson Gregory has forecast pre-profits of £68.2 million this year, a rise of £11 million.

"Airtours and Carnival have been in discussions with regard to future co-operation which could lead to Carnival acquiring a stake of less than 30 per cent in the share capital of Airtours by means of a subscription for new ordinary shares and a partial offer to all shareholders," the statement said.

The City believes a tie-up between the two makes sense and would give Airtours solid financial backing in the volatile world of tour operating.

Simon Eccles-Williams, a director with Morgan Grenfell and adviser to Airtours, said if the deal went ahead if would take the form of a conditional placing with a partial offer to all shareholders. Some stock would be bought from shareholders, and the rest of the 30 per cent stake raised through issuing new shares.

He expected a decision "within weeks" but was unable to say whether a statement would be issued to coincide with Airtours' annual meeting on Thursday.

Under takeover rules, an acquisition of more than 30 per cent would require Carnival to make a full bid for Airtours.

However, if Carnival does take the stake, it will make Airtours virtually bid-proof from other predators, as David Crossland owns 26 per cent of the company, with a value of around £130 million. Airtours has refused to comment further.

Carnival, which is based in Miami, is considerably larger than its cruise competitors, P&O and Trafalgar House's Cunard Line. It has strong cash flow, low long-term debt, and enjoys margins of 30 per cent compared with 12 per cent for P&O.

The deal would make sense for both parties. Eighteen months ago Airtours bought two cruise ships and set up a highly sucessful fly-cruise programme, while Carnival is keen to diversify into the UK holiday market.

Wayne Sanderson, leisure analyst with Merrill Lynch, said Airtours was believed to be close to acquiring Simon Spies Holdings, which has a 40 per cent share of the Danish holiday market, and an injection of money would help fund the acquisition.

David Crossland, who floated Airtours in 1986, has since set up a subsidiary charter airline, acquired the Aspro, Tradewinds, and Late Escapes holiday brands and bought substantial holiday companies in Scandinavia and Canada.

He shares an aggressive, entrepreneurial corporate outlook with Michael Arison, Carnival chairman and chief executive, who has a 10 per cent holding in the US company.

Airtours achieved pre-tax profit of £59.1 million in 1995.

Domestic worries hit pound

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

STERLING slumped to within striking distance of record lows yesterday as traders talked feverishly about the Government's political difficulties and speculated that Thursday's quarter point cut in rates was taken against Bank of England advice.

The pound sunk to 82.8 on its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies, not far above its closing low of 82.2.

Such domestic political worries meant that the pound barely held its own against the mark, which has been sliding. It fell against a resurgent dollar.

In spite of the current US budget impasse, the dollar has been bolstered by support from officials and by figures yesterday showing that the US economy grew 3.2 per cent in the third quarter of 1995, slightly stronger than estimated. Non-farm payrolls rose by 151,000 in December and inflation remained subdued with consumer prices unchanged in November.

Stagecoach continues buying spree in Devon

By Sarah Cunningham

STAGECOACH HOLDINGS, Britain's biggest bus company, continued its buying spree with the purchase yesterday of two Devon bus services, Devon General and Bayline, for £16.1 million.

Stagecoach, which last month won the rail passenger franchise for South West Trains and which has been criticised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the past, said it does not expect any problems with the authority this time.

Although South West Trains operate out of London as far as Exeter, Stagecoach said its nearest bus operation is in Hampshire. The company, which has grown rapidly by purchasing small regional companies, is expected to establish an integrated network for buses and trains in the Exeter area.

The £16.1 million in loan notes will be paid after finalisation of a completion audit. There could be a reduction in the final price if net assets are less than £5.1 million.

The two bus firms run local bus routes in Devon, employ some 710 staff and operate 320 vehicles. They made a pre-tax profit of £1.7 million on a turnover of £14.6 million in the year ending March 31, 1995. Net assets at that date were £2.6 million.

Stagecoach, which is based in Perth, said profit at the units could be raised by investing in new vehicles and cost economies in fuel, spare parts and insurance resulting from being part of a larger group.

Stagecoach made record pre-tax profits of £32.6 million in the year ending March 31, 1995. The company's shares rose 3p to 345p yesterday.

Stagecoach has been referred to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) more than 20 times, although the OFT has found against it in only two cases.

Stagecoach now controls 14 per cent of the total UK bus market and also has operations abroad.

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The diary of a freehold purchase

Sir Rocco buys £15m of Forte shares

By Eric Reguly

SIR Rocco Forte stepped up his battle for Forte's independence yesterday by buying 3.9 million Forte shares in his own name.

The Forte chief executive borrowed almost £15 million to finance the transaction, paying an average price of 376p for the shares. He will not sell them to Granada, which has a £3.8 billion hostile offer for Forte closing on Monday.

Although Sir Rocco's purchases represent only a tiny fraction of the issued share capital, Forte thinks every little bit will help in the expectation that the victor will win by a narrow margin. Forte shares closed at 376p, down 5½p while Granada closed at 694p, down 2p.

In other developments, Granada said it intended to sell the rump of Forte to a single buyer after transfering its restaurants and budget hotels to a Granada subsidiary if the offer succeeds. The move is designed to avoid a hefty capital gains tax on the disposal of Forte's luxury hotels.

Details of Granada's plans to sell more Forte assets emerged as both sides held their final meeting with Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager that owns about 15 per cent of Forte. The City thinks it is highly unlikely that Forte can remain independent if MAM votes in Granada's favour.

Granada and Forte refused to comment on their meetings yesterday with Carol Galley, MAM's vice-chairman, and her financial advisers, as did MAM. Ms Galley is expected to reveal on Monday whether MAM will support Granada again.

If Granada transferred Forte's roadside restaurants, catering operations, motorway service sites and budget hotels to a Granada subsidiary shortly after the bid closes, Forte would then consist of the Meridien, Grand and Exclusive international hotel chains.

Granada would then sell these chains to a single buyer for about £1.6 billion. Granada expects to avoid capital gains because it would be, in effect, selling Forte for a much lower price than the £3.8 billion it is paying for it.

Forte has said that Granada's plan "could create tax problems for any shareholders accepting the bid". But Granada appears confident that its tax-avoidance scenario will succeed. Henry Staunton, finance director, said: "Forte is wrong. We will sell the bulk of the hotels in one transaction with no tax costs."

Carol Galley yesterday met both

Dutch unlikely to bail out Fokker

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE prospect of Fokker surviving as a standalone aircraft builder looked slim last night. Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, said it was "completely unthinkable" that his Government, a minority shareholder, would stump up the 3 billion guilders (£1.2 billion) demanded by Daimler-Benz as a contribution a rescue.

The supervisory board of Daimler-Benz, the German industrial giant that owns 51 per cent of Fokker, will meet on Monday to decide Daimler's next move. Industry sources expect Daimler to approach Aero International Regional, jointly owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy, with a view to merging Fokker's business with AIR.

That would bring about the long-awaited unification of Europe's leading regional aircraft makers, combining BAe's Avro and Jetstream lines, the French-Italian ATR business and Fokker under a single marketing umbrella. Ultimately, AIR would slim its operation to a single range of aircraft. Such a move would be complicated by the need for Daimler to make massive financial write-offs, possibly exceeding £1 billion.

Mr Kok and Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economic Affairs Minister, were set to meet Jürgen Schrempp, the chairman of Daimler, again last night in a final attempt to reach a deal on the rescue. In spite of a march by many of Fokker's 7,900 workers on the Dutch parliament in The Hague earlier in the day, Dutch commentators said the Government could not save the jobs at such a high price.

Thousands more jobs in Britain depend upon Fokker's survival. Wings for two of its jets are made by Short Brothers in Belfast, and the aircraft are powered by Tay engines from Rolls-Royce in Derby.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3748.4	(-0.3)
Yield	3.81%	
FT-SE A All share	1831.53	(+1.82)
Nikkei	20365.76	(-4.28)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5153.25	(+28.90)*
S&P Composite	609.83	(+1.59)*
Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	112 1/32*	(112¼)
Yield	6.00%*	(5.99%)
3-mth Interbank	6 5/16%	(6¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (May)	112 9/32	(112 12/32)
New York:		
$	1.5095*	(1.5185)
London:		
$	1.5085	(1.5225)
DM	2.2324	(2.2394)
FFr	7.6215	(7.6560)
SFr	1.8004	(1.8086)
Yen	158.97	(160.70)
£ Index	82.8	(83.0)
London:		
DM	1.4815*	(1.4724)
FFr	5.0535*	(5.0315)
SFr	1.1945*	(1.1885)
Yen	105.41*	(105.48)
$ Index	95.7	(95.4)

Tokyo close Yen 105.65

Brent 15-day (Apr): $16.55 ($16.80)

London close $399.85 ($397.65)

* denotes midday trading price

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Granada's hidden agenda on Forte

A sort of hush fell over the City yesterday, not because yours truly was about to pen his column, but because the outcome of the City's most controversial takeover bid of the Nineties was in the process of being decided.

It was no secret that Sir Rocco Forte, defender of the Forte empire, and Gerry Robinson, chairman designate of Granada, faced a mutual date with destiny in the shape of their respective tête-à-têtes with Carol Galley and her colleagues at Mercury Asset Management. With MAM holding 15 per cent tranches of both Forte and Granada the popular view is that whichever way Ms Galley votes will almost certainly decide the issue. The popular view is probably correct. That said, neither party is leaving anything to chance, witness Forte's love-in with private shareholders at the Grosvenor House earlier this week and attempts by Granada's camp to seduce the same species over the telephone.

Those of you who suffer this column on a regular basis will be under no illusion as to my own perspective on this £3.8 billion charade. I have been scribbling long enough to take the view (for right or wrong) that certain corporate practices should not be encouraged. Such practices include highly leveraged takeovers and asset stripping exercises. Granada's proposals to acquire Forte just happen to encompass both.

Mr Robinson's grand plan is to create a conglomerate with £4 billion of debt. In order to bring gearing down from some 250 per cent to nearer 70 per cent, Granada will embark on a sale of more than £2 billion worth of Forte's hotel assets at prices unlikely to be enhanced by the fact that potential buyers are well aware of the post-bid strategy.

This tortuous piece of financial engineering is designed to leave Granada with the aspects of Forte that it actually intends to operate, namely the Travelodge and Posthouse hotel chains, along with the Little Chef, Happy Eater and Cote France roadside restaurants.

Those with long memories will recall that an asset stripping exercise of this scale puts to shame the activities of the satellite companies that orbited the ill-fated Slater Walker Securities in the Sixties and early Seventies.

You suspect I exaggerate? You imagine I have succumbed to a little colourful journalese? Not a bit of it. What is chilling about an exercise of this nature is that the City is fully aware of the score. Permit me to quote from a circular issued by Kleinwort Benson yesterday: "The terms of the revised offer have brought the hidden agenda into the open. The accusations of asset stripping can no longer be denied with the planned disposals outlined in the revised offer four times the initial level stated...."Kleinwort's circular continues: "In this context it can be deduced that Granada's bid for Forte has very little to do with its perceived desire or talent to manage hotels and restaurants. Forte has higher quality earnings derived from growing and expanding businesses and earnings per share growth of more than double the rate of Granada. Granada needs both."

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Irrespective of this, Kleinwort Benson's advice is that Granada's offer is "a fair one" and that investors should "crystallise that value."

I am not, I hasten to add, opposed to hostile takeover bids in principle. I merely hold a few old-fashioned views, one of which is that it is infinitely preferable for predatory companies to possess the resources to mount takeovers than to achieve such acquisitions via the creation of a debt mountain. GEC, with a cash surplus of £2.5 billion, was manifestly capable of acquiring VSEL, the submarine manufacturer, last year and duly did so. Granada does not enjoy such resources and its takeover bid for Forte represents a financial engineering exercise that is reminiscent of the corporate takeover excesses of the Eighties.

Who were the financial clowns of the Eighties who were ultimately responsible for the sort of corporate megalomania associated with the late Robert Maxwell, who requires no introduction, John Ashcroft, of Coloroll, and John Gunn, who drove British & Commonwealth on to the rocks? Look no further than the clearing banks.

Now, in an era when highly leveraged deals were perceived to be an anachronism, the clearers are encouraging precisely the same sort of corporate activity that cost them so dearly during the last recession. Those who should take a bow over the Granada-Forte affair include ABN Amro, BZW and Chemical Bank.

Granada has spent the thick end of £400 million snapping up close on 10 per cent of Forte's stock. The Forte family, for its part, holds close on 8 per cent of the equity and Sir Rocco, determined to put his money where his defensive strategy is, purchased some 3.9 million Forte shares yesterday at an average price of 376p.

Whitbread, led by chief executive Peter Jarvis, spent yesterday cajoling City institutions, its £1 billion proposed purchase of Forte's restaurant and budget hotel operations being dependent on Granada's offer failing. Directors of Whitbread are understood to have considered market purchases of a defensive stake in Forte but have not, as yet, taken the plunge.

The deadline is set for 1pm on Tuesday. Before then, word has it that at least one question will be raised in Westminster as to whether the Government intends to permit corporate raiders to use the device of special dividends, payable by the target company, to partially finance takeovers at considerable cost to taxpayers.

Somerfield margin up

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain that used to trade as Gateway, pushed up its margin by 0.8 points as its programme of store conversions continued apace. The chain, which is expected to seek a stock market listing shortly, has completed half of its conversions with nearly 300 supermarkets now using the Somerfield name.

The company, in its first interim report, improved pre-tax profits 44 per cent to £24.2 million in the six months to November 11 as its converted stores started to feed in. Debt has also been whittled down, from £465.9 million at the previous year end to £398.8 million. The group does, however, expect profits to grow at a lower rate in the second half.

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Kuwaitis launch bid for BI

By Alasdair Murray

A KUWAITI construction and investment company yesterday launched a £96 million takeover bid for BI, the Midlands engineer.

National Industries Co (NIC) is offering 132p a share in a bid agreed with the BI board — a premium of 20 per cent over the closing price of 110p on January 18.

BI, formerly known as Bromsgrove International, has engineering, plastics and metals divisions.

NIC already owns 2.2 per cent of the BI capital. The company is quoted in Kuwait, valued at £300 million and made £40 million in profits last year. NIC's main activities include building products and investments. It is 23 per cent owned by the Kuwaiti Investment Authority.

Robert Kottritsch, chief general manager of NIC, said: "BI fits with our strategic growth. We have common interests in the Gulf but the purchase will also allow NIC to diversify its interests."

BI yesterday revealed profits of £4.4 million, up 21 per cent, on a turnover of £62.2 million, up 17 per cent, for the six months to September 30. There is no dividend.

Tempus, page 28

Flagging world economy likely to dominate G7

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN about the flagging world economy is likely to dominate discussion at today's meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised countries in Paris, but the background is marginally more optimistic after rate cuts around Europe.

But finance ministers and central bankers from the seven nations — the US, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy — are not expected to issue a communiqué and little concrete is expected to be decided.

Stagnating continental European economies are likely to be a big talking point, with the German Economics Ministry saying yesterday that the economy probably contracted in the final quarter of the year. The difficulties of low growth is making the process of cutting budget deficits in order to prepare for monetary union by 1999 even more tortuous, a topic that is likely to take centre stage at Monday's meeting of European Union finance ministers. Some of the gloom has been alleviated in advance, with successive cuts in the German repurchase rate and hopes that official German rate cuts will soon be sanctioned by the Bundesbank.

Arthuis: wants G7 support

In addition, France, Britain and The Netherlands all cut rates this week, helping to reinforce the perception in financial markets that the fiscal stranglehold on Europe will be partly alleviated through easier monetary policy. The German Finance Ministry yesterday denied European press speculation that Bonn and Paris are working on a plan to fix exchange rates between the mark and franc bilaterally in a mini-currency union.

Senior British officials said that the G7 is likely to express satisfaction with the recovery in the dollar against the yen, a big issue last year. US officials have gone out of their way this week to express support for a stronger dollar. However, the G7 is still likely to be perturbed by the continued sluggishness of economic activity in Japan as well as signs that the US economy has flagged. Jean Arthuis, France's Finance Minister, said that he would be pushing the G7 hard to mutually support growth.

Other subjects on the agenda today will be continuing discussion on surveillance of economies by the International Monetary Fund as well as the challenge of unemployment before the jobs summit in Lille at the start of April.

Customers cautious on life products

By Marianne Curphey

DEMAND for life and pensions products is still subdued and there is little indication of much improvement in sales this year, United Friendly, the life insurer, said yesterday.

George Mack, finance director, said there was "no reason to be wildly optimistic" about prospects for 1996, because adverse publicity surrounding the mis-selling of personal pensions meant "the average consumer still does not feel ready to buy".

His comments contradicted predictions from Allied Dunbar, which forecast "growth in 1996", and other rival insurers who suggested new business had appeared to pick up towards the end of last year.

Total new life and pensions annual premiums at United Friendly last year were 17 per cent down at £27.9 million (£33.6 million), while Allied Dunbar, which also announced new business figures, said its sales had fallen 15 per cent. Some life companies have balanced a fall in sales with the launch of equity bonds. Both United Friendly and Allied Dunbar said they had steered away from such products, fearing the Inland Revenue was about to clamp down on them.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	16.74	15.24
Belgium Fr	48.97	44.67
Canada $	2.170	2.010
Cyprus Cyp£	0.746	0.691
Denmark Kr	9.27	8.47
Finland Mkk	7.36	6.71
France Fr	8.06	7.41
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.35	11.35
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2605.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	174.10	158.10
Malta	0.588	0.533
Netherlds Gld	2.669	2.429
New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.39	9.59
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	n/a	5.28
Spain Pta	196.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	rater	67411.0
USA $	1.611	1.491

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

❝It has been a rollercoaster week for British Gas. The share price soared, then slumped as investors bet on whether the group could win two huge battles: one with the regulator, the other over its crippling £40bn commitment to its suppliers . . .❞

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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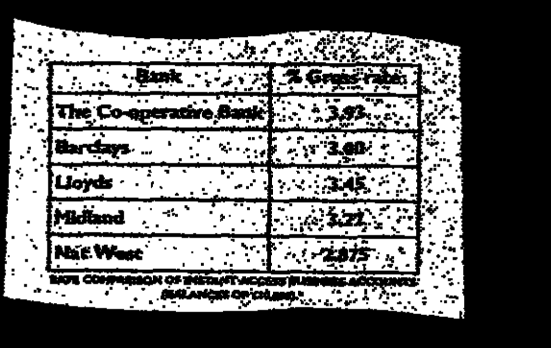

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هكذا من الأصل

ANATOMY OF AN ADMINISTRATION: PART ONE

Countdown to crisis: Last days of Maxwell's empire

Melvyn Marckus charts the progress of the team hunting the missing millions

From his eighth-floor office at Arthur Andersen's Surrey Street headquarters in the City, John Talbot, masterminding recovery operations, enjoyed a clear view of Maxwell House. He looked up from his desk and watched, horrified, as one of his precious assets took off and vanished into the clouds. Fearing a hijack, the speed of Talbot's descent to his colleague's office was worthy of an Olympic sprinter.

The recovery of the Maxwell assets began on a relatively uneventful afternoon at the firm's 120-strong corporate recovery department. Most desks had been cleared and employees were departing into the dusk of Surrey Street, which slopes down towards the Thames. At 6pm, Martin Fishman, a partner, received a phone call from Talbot, head of the division. Talbot's message was concise. A major assignment was in the air. Staff were to be corralled pending his return. The date: Monday, December 2, 1991.

Talbot duly appeared at 7pm. Waiting for him were Fishman and two senior managers, Peter Tuch and Paul Horn. Confidentiality letters were signed and Talbot broke the news. Andersen had been instructed to draw up a contingency plan for Robert Maxwell Group and Headington Investments, the twin pillars of the late Robert Maxwell's private empire. Action depended on whether Maxwell's sons, Kevin and Ian, could raise the £350 million rumoured to be required to shore up their tottering inheritence.

Although Talbot had met the Maxwell brothers earlier that day, his information was sketchy. All four accountants were aware of the well publicised problems that Maxwell's disparate empire faced but the quartet had no inkling of the scale of the crisis that would shortly unfold. The project arrived complete with a pre-determined code name — Russett — and Talbot and his colleagues set to work. Various reports had been prepared by Coopers & Lybrand, Maxwell's traditional auditors, primarily for the benefit of company directors who were busy sweet-talking the banks.

As the night wore on, the accountants experienced their first insight into the spider-web-like complexity of Maxwell's business legacy. Coopers & Lybrand's reports showed that the publishing magnate's private interests embraced more than 400 diversified entities, which stretched from the UK and the Continent to Australia and the US. Under Talbot's direction, Maxwell's mysterious empire was broken down into units, with notes made alongside principal subsidiaries. At 2am, Talbot agreed to call it a day, the proviso being an early reunion hours later.

Finger drumming was fashionable after the reunion, with the course of events uncertain. Would the banks choose to support Maxwell's interests or would operation "Russett" become a "job"? Talbot and Fishman spearheaded operations, although Talbot, a highly experienced insolvency practitioner, spent much of the day locked in meetings with Coopers & Lybrand and the Maxwell duo. Horn started to wrestle with the "2.2 report" — an accountancy statement — and the affidavits which would accompany the petition for an Administration Order. Tuch toyed with strategy. Only limited access was available to Headington Investments and Robert Maxwell Group via Michael Stoney, the group's financial director. A feel for the size of the group had emerged but there was little comprehension of the seriousness of the Maxwell malaise until Talbot surfaced, yet again, from his external dialogues. This time, the news was of Krakatoa proportions. Gross liabilities amounted to more than £1.4 billion. A black hole, at least £300 million deep, had been discovered in the private companies' pension funds. The man in the baseball cap had been a minus billionaire.

True to custom, few of Arthur Andersen's staff had been briefed on the hush, hush drama. Some might have sensed that a corporation was in its death throes — if only because of the number of executives working behind closed doors — but they would not have known which enterprise Talbot & Co were zeroing in on.

Nor had Talbot, content to combine confidentiality with cost efficiency, called on more than a platoon at this stage. Sheafs of paper outlined the division of Maxwell's corporate ugli fruit into key segments. A "2.2 report" had been drafted and a briefing pack prepared to explain to non-insolvency staff how an administration works.

Early on Wednesday it became evident that Maxwell's empire was destined to crash. Finally, the banks reached their verdict. It was a thumbs down to a refinancing: Maxwell's private interests were to be thrown to the administrators. The banks' refusal of support saw the directors of Robert Maxwell Group and Headington Investments duly request Arthur Andersen to petition for an administration. The Big Wait was over. "Russett" was a job.

A highly perceptible gear change took place on the eighth floor as crisp directives emanated from the prospective administrators: Talbot, Murdoch McKillop, Tony Brierley and Fishman. Allen & Overy, the City law firm, was called in to help draft the 2.2 report. Talbot and McKillop spent much of the day huddled with Coopers, in the City, and the Maxwell brothers — still technically instructing Arthur Andersen — at Maxwell House. Details of Maxwell's corporate collection started to emerge.

Talbot: led team

McKillop: administrator

Snap analysis was little helped by some of the quaint language adopted by Maxwell's managers. Various assets and liabilities were referred to in terms of £5 or £10. This, Talbot and his colleagues discovered to their dismay, was Maxwellian shorthand for £5 million or £10 million.

Fishman focused on the "2.2 report" and the co-ordination of operations with Allen & Overy's contingent, which set up camp in Surrey Street. The campers, along with leading Counsel, worked on the petition into the twilight hours. More troops would be needed. Brierley and Tuch estimated the likely level of staffing and the required grades.

Brierley liased with David Haxby, managing partner of the London office, who agreed to release as many staff, including partners and managers, as necessary. Brierley and Tuch then joined Talbot and McKillop at Maxwell House. Corporate recovery specialists equate information to power and the information lay in Holborn not Surrey Street.

Midnight tolled an end to fact garnering before the following day's application to the Court for an Administration Order. Much had been gleaned but the data bank was still in the red. Drawing up basic balance sheets to show that Headington and RMG, Maxwell's two holding companies, were insolvent, proved a tortuous task for the bottom line brigade. Brierley worked into the night with the encamped lawyers, drafting and re-drafting the affidavits.

It had been agreed that Talbot and most of his prospective administrators would retire relatively early. Arthur Andersen's marzipan set encouraged their chiefs on this count, artfully emphasising the importance of sleep on the eve of being charged with one of the UK's largest-ever insolvencies.

As the senior managers toiled, there was unanimous agreement, amid chuckles, about too many cooks spoiling 2.2 reports. Tuch, whose role was to co-ordinate the exercise, spent the dark hours putting the finishing touches to briefing packs and amassing bundles of data on Maxwell's private companies in readiness for a 9 am session. Typists were in short supply at 4 am and Tuch and Horn argued more than once about priorities. By 6 am, the paperwork was complete. Time to wend homewards, shower, change and return.

Thursday morning saw Talbot, McKillop and Fishman finalising legal particulars in preparation for a provisional 10 am court hearing. The well-trodden path to co-ordinate and manage an operation of this scale was to split Maxwell's asset base into manageable entities and despatch separate teams — made up of insolvency and non-insolvency specialists — to each satellite: a sort of moonwalk specifically designed for insolvency practitioners. Major problems loomed. Even if Talbot obtained Administration Orders over RMG and Headington, this would only yield control of the operating subsidiaries through share stakes.

Such limited control would not give the administrators the authority to enter premises and hold talks with management. One of the arts of administration, once access has been gained, is to develop a relationship with, and work alongside, ongoing management. Andersen's managers were instructed to:

☐ Extract information

☐ Work out how much cash was required for survival

☐ Identify problems with suppliers.

☐ Form a view on the competence and integrity of local management,

☐ Determine a strategy for disposing of the business.

The image was one of wealth, power and influence but in reality Robert Maxwell had been a minus billionaire

A press blackout was imposed. Because Talbot would only be operating as a shareholder there was little that could be said to reassure thousands of worried employees. A letter aimed at bolstering employees' morale was drafted for each team. Maxwell's interests had been divided into the following groups:

☐ London & Bishopsgate;

☐ British International Helicopters;

☐ AGB;

☐ Israeli interests;

☐ Eastern European newspaper interests;

☐ Sundry Eastern European investments;

☐ *The European*;

☐ Property interests;

☐ Group assets and investments;

☐ African interests;

☐ Computer software companies.

Brierley and Tuch presided over Thursday's meeting and talked partners and senior executives through each of the sub-divisions.

It had been agreed that, once the Administration Order was granted, a team would fly to Israel. The choice was Alan Katz, a partner at Arthur Andersen's Leeds office, who brought his own team, including lawyers, to London.

Horn was destined for the US, where he would liase with Kevin Maxwell and attempt to clarify the situation at the New York *Daily News*, Thomas Cook Travel Inc and London & Bishopsgate US, one of Maxwell's investment arms.

A tax team, led by Nicholas Woolf, had been created to move in on Maxwell's tax specialists. Talbot joined the gathering at around 10 am: the court hearing having been delayed. At 11.15 am, after the meeting broke up, Talbot, McKillop, Brierley and Tuch strode purposefully towards the Royal Courts of Justice. Back at Surrey Street, the teams kicked their heels.

No discussions were permitted with colleagues outside "Russett", let alone the blacked-out fourth estate. There had been no leak of the pending administration and the insolvency quartet was surprised to discover that a bank creditor had instructed Counsel to attend the hearing. The bank wanted to sell certain shares held as security. After taking advice, Talbot agreed, but reserved rights to future action should ownership of the shares be disputed. The hearing proved swift. By lunchtime, the Gang of Four had been appointed joint administrators to Maxwell's corporate conundrum. Back at the Surrey Street ranch, a press release was drafted and teams despatched to various locations. Talbot, not renowned for letting time, let alone an asset, slip through his fingers, proposed an immediate assault on Maxwell House to establish control over the media tycoon's fallen empire. For once, Talbot was overruled. Those who had left Surrey Street at 6 am insisted that the march on Holborn required fortification: tactics were debated in Arthur Andersen's canteen.

News that £300 million had vanished from Maxwell pension funds and that Maxwell's private companies owed the MGN/MCC "twins" a further £300 million, had broken two days earlier. The mega personality, who had Gulfstreamed around the world in search of newspapers and power, had been exposed as a mega pretender. Now, his private interests, including *The European*, the *Daily News*, AGB, the market research specialist, and minority investments in Newspaper Publishing, owners of *The Independent*, and Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, had crashed. Maxwell House was surrounded by reporters and camera crews when Talbot and his cohorts arrived.

Chaos outside, chaos inside. Access was effectively limited to the 6th and 7th floors, which housed Maxwell's private operations in contrast to his publicly quoted — albeit share frozen — interests in Maxwell Communication Corporation and Mirror Group Newspapers. Staff were few and far between.

Telephones rang non-stop, courtesy of a frantic press, unconsolable creditors and bewildered managers of trading subsidiaries. Talbot and others departed to host a press conference at the City's Chartered Insurance Institute. McKillop was entrenched at AGB's headquarters, Fishman was installed at *The European* opposite Maxwell House in Fetter Lane where Tuch was left to organise the central team.

By close of play, some of Talbot's platoons would be in place at most of the operational locations in the UK, while others had flown to the United States, Hungary, Germany and Israel.

The chunk of meat that Talbot fed to the Maxwell-baying media was that creditors were owed £1.4 billion, of which £800 million was owed to the banks. He refused to put a value on the assets other than to confirm that they were "significantly" less than the liabilities. By far the most important asset was the 51 per cent stake (which turned out to be nearer 55 per cen) in MGN.

Speculation, which the administrators would not be drawn into, had it that MGN (plundered in pension fund and elsewhere) might be worth £300 million, against £500 million based on its suspension price. Maxwell's "private side" officially held a 68 per cent stake in the ailing MCC, which, at suspension, was capitalised at £226 million.

Anatomy of an Administration continues on Monday

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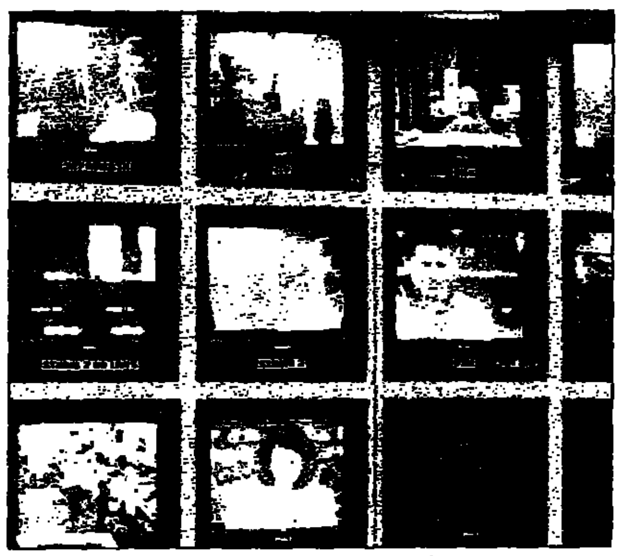
STOCK MARKET PHILIP PANGALOS

Gains overturned by election date rumours



The broadcasting sector was the focus of much attention

IT was a day when wild rumours swirled around the City, ranging from another big bid in the pipeline to talk of an early general election.

An early push to record highs was shortlived as initial gains were reversed by a futures-inspired sell-off and spurious City rumours that the Prime Minister was about to announce a date for the general election. Seasoned traders doubted the rumours from the start, suggesting that the stories may have been put about by some who are short of stock.

Strong overnight gains in New York saw the FT-SE 100 index open up 18.7 points to touch a new intra-day record high of 3,767.4. But the rise was reversed as political jitters and an expiry of the January futures unsettled the cash market and prompted some profit-taking.

A positive start on Wall Street helped to settle investors nervous in volatile trading ahead of triple-witching, where the expiry of options and futures coincide. The FT-SE 100 index closed down 0.3 at 3,748.4, giving a 91.1 point advance on the week. Second-liners did better yesterday, with the FT-SE 250 closing up 15.4 at 4,073.6, for a rise of 49 points on the week. Volume reached 753.8 million shares.

London's late recovery was further fuelled by market talk of an imminent bid for a FTSE stock, with those mentioned as favourites including **Cable and Wireless**, up 6p at 462p, **Ladbroke**, 1p firmer at 165p, and **British Gas**, 1½p softer at 252p, on volume of 10.14 million shares.

British Aerospace put in another strong performance, with its shares ending 11½p higher at 876p on Eurofighter order hopes and recent broker recommendations.

Rolls-Royce, seen as another beneficiary from the Eurofighter programme, eased 1½p to 201p, but **Smiths Industries** added 5½p to 655p, lifted by reports of a Kleinwort Benson recommendation. On the bid front, the majority of City analysts appeared to be backing Granada to emerge the victor in its £3.8 billion takeover battle for control of Forte, the hotels group, when the bid closes on Tuesday.

Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager that has a near 15 per cent stake in Forte, will play a key role in the bid's outcome, with both parties making crucial presentations to MAM yesterday. It also emerged that Sun Life Investment Management sold 8.75 Forte ordinary shares, at 385p each, on Thursday, cutting its holding 0.01 per cent.

Forte fell 5½p to 376p, on volume of 26.56 million shares, while **Granada**, which has a 9.9 per cent stake in Forte, dipped 2p to 694p.

Staying with bids, **Lloyds Chemists** added 8p to 409p amid vague talk that Gehe, the German healthcare group which bought AAH last year, may mount a counter-offer to Thursday's agreed £540 million bid from **UniChem**, up 2p at 260½p.

Shares in **Airtours** surged to 455p, before settling 33p higher at 433p after the tour operator said it was in discussions with Carnival Corp, the US cruise ship company, over future co-operation which could lead to Carnival acquiring a stake of less than 30 per cent in Airtours.

On the profits warning front, it was the turn of **Austin Reed** to upset the City. Shares in the upmarket clothing group fell 11p to 151p after the company said that sluggish autumn and winter trading is expected to result in halved pre-tax profits for the current year of between £3 million and £3.5 million, compared with £7.1 million previously, although the final dividend should be maintained at 4p. Like-for-like sales were flat and margins fell by 3 per cent.

BOC Group gained 18p to 917p after an upbeat annual meeting helped the shares in the industrial gases to healthcare group to build on an early rise inspired by a recommendation from James Capel.

The broadcasting sector was the focus of attention ahead of next week's debate on the Broadcasting Bill, which may prompt a further rationalisation in the media industry. **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees** stood out with a 37p rise to 759p, while **HTV** added 18p to 318p. **Ulster TV** rose 45p to £11.23, **Border TV** gained 12p to 261p and **Grampian** climbed 3p to 226p.

Banks also continued their advance, with the Far Eastern issues reflecting positive broker comment and a 228-point jump in the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong. **HSBC** added 23½p to £10.76, but **Standard Chartered**, seen as a takeover target, was the star performer with a 28p jump to 618p, additionally boosted as James Capel reiterated its buy recommendation and upgraded its profit forecasts. Capel has raised its 1995 forecast from £599 million to £656 million, with 1996's estimate increased from £700 million to £780 million.

LPA Industries, the USM-quoted components company, surged 8p to 42p after a jump in full-year profits. **BI Group** leapt 20p to 130p after the specialist engineering group accompanied higher interim profits with a recommended £96.3 million takeover offer, worth 132p a share, from National Industries, a Kuwaiti manufacturing company.

Mitie Group, the building maintenance company, advanced to 327p before ending 1p easier at 323p after improved margins and new contracts helped the group, which supplies services to property owners and occupiers, to unveil a better than expected 38 per cent advance in first-half profits in spite of competitive conditions.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts failed to hold on to early gains inspired by stronger US treasuries and firmer bunds. The March long gilt future ended 10 ticks lower at £112³⁄₃₂, on volume of 71,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, losses stretched to £¼ among longer-dated issues, but index-linked stocks added nearly £¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were higher at midday after better than expected earnings by Microsoft and IBM. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 28.90 at 5,153.25.

Global Group was unchanged at 17½p in spite of suggestions that the food to shipping services company may mount a bid for Sims Foods, which was steady at 38p, after Sims disposes of its red meat operations to a management buyout team.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Granada	694p	+31p	Forte bid deadline looms
Standard Chartered	618p	+54p	Broker buy/profit upgrades
Vaux Group	297p	+19p	Bid speculation
British Aerospace	876p	+41p	Broker buy/Eurofighter hopes
Airtours	433p	+16p	Carnival to take a stake
Wainhomes	80p	-29p	Profits warning/police inquiry
Guinness	470p	-13½p	Restructuring provision warning
British Gas	252p	-12½p	Gas supply contract worries
Photo-Me Intnl	124p	-23p	Poor interims/profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5153.25 (+28.90)
S&P Composite 609.83 (+1.59)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20365.76 (-4.28)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10764.09 (+227.60)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 508.58 (+3.65)

Sydney:
AO 2246.2 (-4.2)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2398.76 (+17.86)

Singapore:
Straits 2403.18 (+6.91)

Brussels:
General 8910.87 (+79.88)

Paris:
CAC-40 1964.28 (+4.22)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 728.80 (+0.60)

London:
FT 30 2763.1 (-11.4)
FT 100 3748.4 (-0.3)
FT-SE Mid 250 4073.6 (+15.4)
FT-SE-A 350 1858.8 (+1.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1544.02 (+6.59)
FT A All-Share 1831.53 (+1.82)
FT Non Financials 1929.74 (-0.90)
FT Fixed Interest 115.01 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secs 96.22 (+0.12)
Bargains 41163
SEAQ Volume 780.3m
USM (Datastrm) 195.15 (-0.37)
US$ 1.5105 (-0.0125)
German Mark 2.2351 (-0.0025)
Exchange Index 82.8 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1826
£:SDR 1.0391
RPI 150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Century Inns	116	...
Cox Insurance	113	...
Crown Products	55	...
Dmatek	73	...
Jupiter Split Cap	85½	...
Jupiter Split Inc	98½	...
Jupiter Split Units	#59	...
Mountcashel	¼	...
Nthn Petlm Wrts	8	...
Revelation Plcc	100	...
SkyePharma B Wrts	6¼	...
Viewinn	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Eleco Hldgs n/p (28)	1	...
Persona n/p (225)	25	+ 2
Ransomes n/p (48)	7	...
SWP Group n/p (2½)	1½	...
Seafield Res n/p (65)	25	- 2
SkyePharma n/p (4)	4	...
Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25)	3	...
Westbury n/p (150)	34	+ 1
Western Sel n/p (14)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
BI Group 130p (+20p)
Cortecs 210p (+22p)
Airtours 433p (+33p)
Cantab Pharms 385p (+25p)
Hadleigh 197p (+12p)
Frost Group 165p (+10p)
HTV Group 318p (+18p)
Evans Halshaw 308p (+17p)
Pizza Express 235p (+12p)
Biotec Inv 282p (+14p)
Psion 750p (+25p)
Celltech 605p (+19p)
Kwik Save 518p (+14p)
Stand Chart 618p (+28p)
Yorkshire TV 759p (+37p)

FALLS:
Essex Furn 82p (-13p)
Austin Reed 151p (-11p)
Medeva 245p (-9p)
Reuters 609p (-12p)
Charter 843p (-11p)
Telspec 808p (-10p)
RMC Gp 954p (-11p)
Kingfisher 536p (-8p)
Allied Dom 530p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Flying with clipped wings

GIVEN British Airways' struggle to expand worldwide, it is a wonder that the shares have been at an all-time high this month and dropped just 2p yesterday to 519p on news that the airline will not increase its USAir stake.

As part of a series of manoeuvres to increase its world coverage and give it more clout against the other big international airlines, BA invested $400 million in 1993 to buy a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir. It seemed like a good idea at the time but fierce competition in the US domestic market and the need to draw up stronger agreements with the trade unions led to a writedown of half the value of the stake last year.

British Airways had earlier threatened that it would make no further increase in its USAir investment until USAir's financial position improved. But under the original deal with USAir, BA was entitled to invest a further $200 million by January 21 this year and another $250 million by January 21 1998. Subject to approval by the US BA would have enjoyed "improved governance provisions".

BA made it clear yesterday that it did not expect that the US authorities would have approved the stake increases. BA appears to have suffered from stalled freedom of the skies talks between the British and American Governments. America will not raise the ceiling on stakes in airlines held by non-American companies and Britain refuses to allow unlimited access to Heathrow. All of this leaves British Airways a global alliance or two short of what it sees as ideal and issuing a tame statement yesterday, welcoming hard man Stephen Wolf as the new chairman and chief executive of USAir.

Stagecoach

ANYONE who thought that winning the South West Trains franchise last month would slow Stagecoach's ambitions has been swiftly proved wrong by yesterday's purchase of the Devon General and Bayline local bus services.

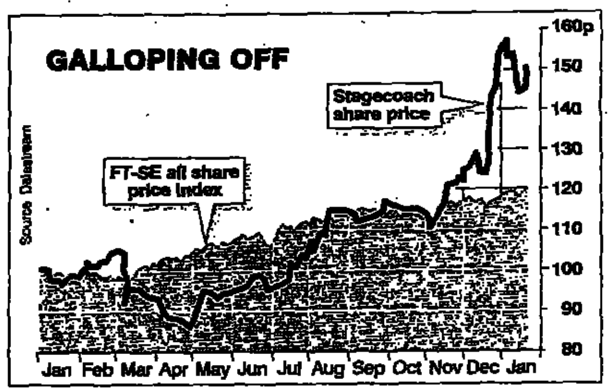
This time Stagecoach is sure it is safe with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and Office of Fair Trading, but the company has a count of OFT investigations that runs to more than 20.

Although South West Trains operates from London Waterloo as far as Exeter, Stagecoach's nearest bus operation to its two new Devon businesses is in Hampshire.

The company is adamant that considering its size (it controls 14 per cent of the UK bus market) it has not had a disproportionate number of MMC and OFT referrals relating to bus companies.

Stagecoach, founded in 1980 and floated in 1993, has experienced remarkable growth and believes there are enough blank spaces left on the map for it to continue growing. Its successful expansion has been reflected in its share price which has climbed from a low last April of 197p to 345p.

The company, which the MMC last year notoriously accused of "predatory and deplorable" behaviour, may be aggressive, but bus users have received some benefits: the company is a major investor in new vehicles and its size and buying power make it an efficient operator.



Cambridge

UNDER the dreaming spires and alongside the college halls flows a wealth of water from Cambridge's rivers and underground sources.

But it has taken until now for Cambridge Water, which was a loyal supporter of the statutory scheme, to realise the full potential of the natural resource on which Cambridge stands. Plans to convert to a public limited company, however, follow the pattern of other small water companies, even if Cambridge is a little later than most.

The change of status will carry it into an arena in which it can take a more active part in the industry that has changed considerably since the day of statutory water companies. It is not impossible that competition in the water industry could be on the horizon.

The prospects of a competitive water industry are not huge considering the complexity of the process of opening up pipelines to competition. But that has not stopped electricity and gas proceeding along that course. The DTI and Ofwat are currently discussing the possibilities of introducing competition into the water industry.

Cambridge will be able to participate in such a water race as a plc. It will also have greater scope to negotiate credit, raise its profile and put a price on itself. The dreaming spires are clearly awakening to a new world.

BI

BI, the engineering group, has never had a very happy relationship with the stock market. So it is no surprise to find the board rushing to accept the embrace of the company's Eastern suitor, National Industries Co of Kuwait, and end its chaotic relationship with the market.

A premium of 20 per cent on BI's pre-offer closing price is not exactly generous. But shareholders who have witnessed BI's erratic history will conclude the price is just about fair.

BI's share price has never regained the dizzy heights reached in the late 80s and as recently as last April the shares were languishing at 79p, a full 50 per cent below the bid price.

The company has always been a dedicated follower of market fashion. A few years back when conglomerates were all the rage, BI fancied joining the big league and went acquisition crazy. Now that conglomerates are out of vogue, BI has hopped on the back-to-basics bandwagon and divested all its non-core operations.

Its performance over the past couple of years has improved, but tucked away in yesterday's interim results was a warning that margins were being squeezed. Shareholders should not feel too hard done by in accepting the offer.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	919-918	May	1031 BID
May	943-942	Jul	unq
Jul	962-961	Sep	
Sep	982-981	Dec	
Dec	999-999		
Mar	1021-1016	Volume: 6947	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1900-1890	Sep	1592-1590
Mar	1834-1831	Nov	1580-1575
May	1675-1674	Jan	1573-1565
Jul	1614-1612	Volume: 6308	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	307.0-05.1
Spot: 376.0		Dec	301.0-98.6
Mar	359.0-58.5	Mar	300.5-97.3
May	346.0-45.5	May	300.0-96.0
Aug	332.0-30.5	Volume: 1275	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	102.64	122.75	119.03
(+/-)	-1.51	+4.76	+0.21
Eng/Wales	102.61	124.02	119.40
(+/-)	+1.48	-5.19	+0.57
(%)	+1.0	-13.0	-26.0
Scotland:	109.70	117.34	121.99
(+/-)	+9.44	+4.02	-1.94
(%)	-37.0	+46.0	-18.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.65	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.00	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.55	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.05	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.70	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B 167 (-1)	O 169 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	165 (n/c)	166 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	162 (n/c)	164 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	159 (+1)	161 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	98 (n/c)	100 (n/c)
Naphtha	166 (-1)	169 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	158.50-58.75	May	149.25-49.75
Mar	155.25-55.50	Jun	148.25-48.50
Apr	151.75-52.00		Vol: 13953

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	17.00-17.01	Jun	16.14 SLR
Apr	16.55-16.57	Jul	16.00 BID
May	16.35 SLR		Vol: 17719

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	121.25	Jan	113.00
Mar	121.60	Mar	113.80
May	123.55	May	115.45
Jul	125.50	Sep	107.00
Sep	111.25	Nov	109.20
Volume: 799		Volume: 147	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	204.0	204.5
May	unq	222.0
		Volume: 210

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Feb 107.50-108.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1535	1501	1536
Feb 96	1530	1515	1515
Mar 96	1510	1500	1500
Apr 96	1495	1480	1490
Vol: 131 lots		Open Interest: 4267	

Index 1538 -3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2570.0-2575.0	2490.0-2492.0	151525
Lead ($/tonne)	721.00-721.50	712.50-713.00	202400
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1029.5-1030.0	1052.0-1053.0	347475
Tin ($/tonne)	6240.0-6250.0	6270.0-6275.0	21905
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1556.0-1557.0	1584.5-1585.0	1064700
Nickel ($/tonne)	8205.0-8210.0	8300.0-8310.0	127448

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	500	43	49½	56	8	14	17
(*529)	550	15	22½	30	29½	37½	42½
Argyll	330	31½	37	41	6	12½	16
(*350½)	360	14½	20½	25½	19	27½	32
ASDA	110	7	10½	12½	6	4	9
(*111)	120	3	6	8½	12	13	14½
Boots	550	50½	67½	73	4	10½	14
(*590)	600	24½	34	42	19½	29	34
Br Airways	500	35	44	51	10	19	23
(*517½)	550	11	19	27	37	45½	49½
BP	500	34	44½	49	5	13	17
(*525)	550	9	19	23	31	38½	42
Br Steel	160	11	16	17	5	10	12
(*164)	180	4	6	8½	16½	22½	24
C S W	480	26	36½	43	19	28	31
(*490)	500	11	18	26½	44½	51½	54½
CU	400	34	43½	50	24	31	38
(*415)	450	12	21½	28½	59½	60½	67½
ICI	800	42½	55½	64	25	33	42
(*824)	850	17½	31	40	53	60½	69
Kingfisher	500	46½	54½	62	9	16½	21
(*535)	550	16½	27	36½	32½	40	45
Land Sec	600	41	48	51½	5	17	16
(*629)	650	13	19	23	27	42	44
M & S	420	35	41½	46	5	10	13
(*445)	460	12½	19	24½	22½	29½	32
Nat West	650	32	47	55	20	19½	44
(*664½)	700	13	25½	34	50	65	73
Sainsbury	390	36	41½	47	5	10	13
(*416½)	420	17	23	30	15	23½	26
Shell	800	58	65	73½	9	14	20½
(*845)	850	23½	31½	47½	32	36	42½
SmKl Bch	700	42	46	59	21½	30	36
(*706)	750	12	25	35	52	60	63
Storehse	280	23	29½	33	6	10½	13
(*293)	300	12½	18	23	14	19½	22
Trafalgar	50	5½	7½	9	4	5½	6½
(*51)	55	2½	5½	7	7	8½	9
Unilever	1350	39	55½	74	39	40	55
(*1351)	1400	18	31½	49½	71½	71	79½
Zeneca	1250	63	87	105	42	56	61
(*1273½)	1300	40	62	80	69	63	89

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	35	47	55	2	7	12½
(*451)	460	9	23	32½	10	22½	29
Ladbroke	160	12	19	22	5	14	17
(*163)	180	4	11	14	18	26	29
Utd Bisc	240	20	24½	30	2	8½	11½
(*256)	260	7½	14	20	9	19½	21½

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	480	39½	47	53	5	11½	15
(*487)	500	14	23	31	21	29½	31½
Thames W	500	54½	61	64	3½	13	16½
(*542)	550	22	30	34½	19	36½	40

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	24	42½	51	5	18	28
(*567)	600	5	16	26	29½	40	55
BTR	330	9½	15	19½	4½	14	16
(*333)	360	0½	4½	8½	26½	35½	37
Br Aero	850	40	64	87	12½	31½	42
(*876)	900	14	39	61	37	57	67
Br Telecom	360	18	28	35	2½	7½	14
(*374)	390	2½	12	18½	17½	22	29½
Cadbury	500	46	53½	63	2½	13½	19
(*541½)	550	12	24½	36	19	36	41
Guinness	460	18	26½	34½	5½	17½	22
(*470)	500	2	9½	16½	30½	42½	45½
GKN	360	13	23	29	6	13	19½
(*365)	390	2	9	14½	26	27½	36½
Hanson	191	1½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*205)	211	2	—	—	7½	—	—
LASMO	160	13	17½	22	1½	5½	7½
(*170)	180	2½	7½	12	11	15	17½
Lucas	190	11	16	21	2	7	9
(*187)	200	2	7	11	13½	16	19½
Pilkngtn	191	7	14	18	6	9	13
(*191½)	210	1	6	10	19	21	24½
Prudential	420	22	29	41½	5½	19	25½
(*434)	460	4	10½	23	28	42	49
Redland	330	26	36	39	1½	10½	11
(*354)	360	9	17	22½	12	25	26
R-Royce	200	7	12½	17½	5½	12	14½
(*201)	220	1	5	9	19½	25	26½
Tesco	300	13	19½	25	5	11½	15
(*307)	330	1½	6½	12	23½	30	32½
Vodafone	220	11	19½	25½	5	10	14
(*224)	240	3	10½	16½	17	21	24½
Williams	330	15	22	25½	3	11	12½
(*340)	360	1½	7½	11	20½	29	31½

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	650	30	43	53	25	35½	44
(*659)	700	10½	22	32½	59½	66½	74½
Amstrad	180	15½	23	26½	10	13	15
(*184½)	200	7	15	18	22	24½	26½
Barclays	750	38½	50	62	19½	27½	33½
(*771)	800	13½	26½	38	50	56	66
Blue Circ	330	20	27½	33	6	19	21½
(*340)	360	7	14	19½	24	26	38
Br Gas	240	19	22½	28	5½	12½	15½
(*252)	260	5½	13½	18	13½	23½	26
Dixons	390	35½	47	52½	8	12½	17½
(*417)	420	18	30	36	17½	25	31
Forte	360	21	24	25½	9	11½	12
(*376)	390	4	7	8	19½	22½	29½
Tarmac	100	11½	14½	16½	2½	5	7
(*109)	110	6	9	11	7	10	12
Hillsdwn	160	20	21½	22	1	4½	7
(*177)	180	6½	9	11½	8	14½	17
Lonrho	200	9½	15½	20	8	11½	13½
(*203)	220	2½	7½	11½	21½	23	38
Sears	90	9	11	12	1	3	4
(*97)	100	3	5	6	5	7½	8½
Thorn	1600	94	137	152	27	45½	69
(*1637)	1700	34½	80	101½	78	95½	119½
Tomkins	260	20	29½	32	4	8	12
(*277)	280	9	17	21	12	17	22
Lloyds TSB	322	29	38	—	5	11	—
(*340½)	352	10	19	—	19	25	—

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	900	84	96	108	32	41½	54
(*910)	950	17	34	45½	63½	71	92
HSBC	1050	63	95½	103	41½	47	66
(*1079)	1100	38	61½	79	67½	82	98
Reuter	600	33	47	61	24	31½	38
(*607)	650	12½	25½	39	54½	69½	66

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins	390	21	25	39½	21	29½	35½
(*395)	420	10	21	28	41	48	53½

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun		Puts Mar	Jun
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0½	5
(*265)	280	0½	0½	—	15	19

	Series	Calls Feb	May		Puts Feb	May
Eastern Gp	950	30½	44	—	0½	0½
(*975)	1000	1	9	—	25	22

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	420	30	41½	49½	5	14½	21
(*448)	460	9	20	25½	23½	34½	41
Scot Pwr	360	20	34	39½	5	9	14
(*383)	390	9	17	23	19	22	28½

FT-SE INDEX (*3748)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Jan	149	96	46	0	0	0
Feb	171	127	87½	53	29	13½
Mar	189½	148	110	78	51	34
Apr	197	159½	126½	97	74	52
Jun	224½	—	162	—	107	—
Puts						
Jan	0	0	0	4	54	104
Feb	9	11	22½	38	65	106
Mar	19	29	40	59	84	117½
Apr	37	40	64	86½	113	142½
Jun	67½	—	91	—	136	—

January 19, 1996 Tot: 71919 Calls: 46823 Puts: 25206 FT-SE Calls: 9140 Puts: 9984
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 63115	Mar 96	3778.0	3784.0	3751.0	3773.0	12466
	Jun 96	3759.5	3759.5	3759.5	3775.5	3
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3412	Mar 96	4075.0	4082.0	4075.0	4085.0	16
	Jun 96	*				0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 364968	Mar 96	93.96	93.96	93.90	93.92	17161
	Jun 96	94.19	94.19	94.11	94.13	19362
	Sep 96	94.24	94.25	94.14	94.17	15240
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.71	0
	N/A					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1061055	Mar 96	96.66	96.70	96.66	96.67	29727
	Jun 96	96.82	96.85	96.80	96.81	28138
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 142418	Mar 96	112-16	112-17	111-25	112-03	71495
	Jun 96	111-24	111-24	111-14	111-14	91
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.53	119.71	119.48	119.69	2967
	Jun 96	118.13	118.23	118.11	118.24	578
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 236512	Mar 96	101.22	101.29	100.71	100.89	189639
	Jun 96	100.55	100.55	100.08	100.19	2011
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20672	Mar 96	95.42	95.42	95.34	95.41	1045
	Jun 96	95.59	95.60	95.57	95.60	629
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 56179	Mar 96	98.38	98.41	98.34	98.35	3971
	Jun 96	98.42	98.42	98.34	98.38	3360
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 65377	Mar 96	112.85	113.35	112.60	112.97	52329
	Jun 96	112.75	112.75	112.38	112.49	928

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 6 Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛ Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth: 6

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6-5⅞	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6¼ close 6

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¼	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.41	n/a	5.36	5.24	5.10
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £3,315m allotted: £800m; Bids: £98.50% received: 53%; Last week: £98.46% received: 60%; Avge rate: £5.9808% Last wk £6.1663%. Next week: £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $396.50-396.80 Close: $399.60-400.10 High: $399.60-400.10
Low: $395.60-396.10 AM: $396.80 PM: $399.10

Krugerrand: $399.50-401.50 (£264.00-266.00)

Platinum: $415.65 (£275.00) **Silver:** $5.50 (£3.645) **Palladium:** $129.50 (£85.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4980-2.5097	2.5005-2.5038	¼-⅛pr	2-1⅝pr
Brussels	45.84-46.01	45.84-45.94	13-10pr	35-29pr
Copenhagen	8.6200-8.6590	8.6290-8.6510	1¼-1⅛pr	4¼-3¼pr
Dublin	0.9624-0.9654	0.9627-0.9653	11-8pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2309-2.2374	2.2309-2.2340	⅛-¼pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Lisbon	230.60-231.75	230.73-231.35	24-50ds	79-122ds
Madrid	187.80-188.77	187.80-188.09	36-46ds	107-124ds
Milan	2382.9-2400.1	2382.9-2386.8	6-7ds	19-21ds
Montreal	2.0566-2.0663	2.0566-2.0595	0.18-0.10pr	0.33-0.22
New York	1.5080-1.5144	1.5080-1.5090	0.12-0.10pr	0.31-0.28pr
Oslo	9.7670-9.8060	9.7710-9.7860	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅝pr
Paris	7.6150-7.6490	7.6150-7.6250	1⅛-1¼pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Stockholm	10.120-10.193	10.120-10.142	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Tokyo	158.83-159.84	159.83-159.10	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.683-15.734	15.699-15.725	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅛pr
Zurich	1.7990-1.8050	1.7990-1.8016	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3568-1.3577
Austria	10.39-10.40
Belgium (Com)	30.65-30.66
Canada	1.3634-1.3639
Denmark	5.7150-5.7180
France	5.0455-5.0480
Germany	1.4778-1.4783
Hong Kong	7.7310-7.7315
Ireland	1.5655-1.5675
Italy	1585.50-1586.25
Japan	105.36-105.45
Malaysia	2.5505-2.5515
Netherlands	1.6548-1.6558
Norway	6.4710-6.4740
Portugal	152.84-152.94
Singapore	1.4210-1.4220
Spain	124.45-124.55
Sweden	6.7160-6.7260
Switzerland	1.1912-1.1922

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5080-1.5106
Australia dollar	2.0477-2.0519
Bahrain dinar	0.5630-0.5750
Brazil real*	1.4668-1.4709
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6965-0.7065
Finland markka	6.7225-6.8385
Greece drachma	362.75-369.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.6707-11.6784
India rupee	53.65-54.61
Indonesia rupiah	3423.00-3491.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4480-0.4580
Malaysia ringgit	3.8513-3.8540
New Zealand dollar	2.2720-2.2752
Pakistan rupee	51.57 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4350-5.5590
Singapore dollar	2.1457-2.1479
S Africa rand (com)	5.4590-5.5610
U A E dirham	5.4825-5.6065

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	2,600	Land Secs	1,700
ASDA Gp	5,000	Legal & Gn	1,800
Abbey Ntl	2,000	Lloyds TSB	9,100
Allied Dom	4,500	Marks Spr	5,900
Argos	433	NatWst Bk	2,700
Argyll Gp	2,200	Nat Grid	9,200
AB Foods	1,300	Nat Power	1,800
BAA	2,700	P & O	4,700
BAT Inds	2,300	Pearson	774
BOC	3,600	Pilkington	6,200
BP	5,500	PowerGen	2,000
BSkyB	1,000	Prudential	2,700
BTR	9,400	REXAM	7,800
BT	18,000	RMC	226
Bk of Scot	925	RTZ	2,800
Barclays	2,300	Rank Org	2,400
Bass	1,600	Reckitt Col	492
Blue Circle	2,000	Redland	1,100
Boots	1,400	Reed Intl	912
BAe	3,000	Rentokil	392
BA	2,600	Reuters	1,700
Brit Gas	10,000	Rolls Royce	12,000
Brit Steel	2,800	Royal Ins	1,100
Burmah Cstl	221	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Burton	2,300	Sainsbury	2,900
Cable Wire	2,200	Schroders	87
Cadbury	964	Scot & New	2,300
Carlton Cms	980	Scot Power	8,900
Cm Union	1,300	Svrn Trent	491
Cookson	4,100	Shell Trans	5,100
Courtaulds	2,000	Siebe	1,400
Dixons	2,000	SmKl Bch	2,200
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Smith Nph	3,300
For & Col IT	725	Smiths Inds	803
Forte	20,000	Sthern Elec	609
GKN	624	Std Chartd	3,700
GRE	5,100	Sun Allnce	674
GUS	1,400	TI Gp	561
Gen Acc	394	Tate & Lyle	431
Gen Elec	3,900	Tesco	2,800
Glaxo Well	9,300	Thames W	2,500
Granada	5,700	Thrn EMI	558
Grand Met	1,800	Tomkins	3,500
Guinness	2,000	Unilever	2,700
HSBC	9,400	United Utils	1,100
Hanson	10,000	Vodafone	5,200
ICI	1,400	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	4,000	Wlms Hld	2,300
LASMO	3,300	Wolseley	1,000
Ladbroke	4,600	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Jan 19 midday	Jan 18 close
AMP Inc	36½	38
AMR Corp	72½	70½
AT & T	66¼	66¼
Abbott Labs	39	39½
Advanced Micro	18½	19
Aetna Life	72½	72½
Ahmanson (HF)	25½	25½
Air Prod & Chem	51¼	51½
AirTouch Comm	26½	26½
Alberto-Culver B	34½	34½
Albertson's	32½	32½
Alcan Alumnm	30½	29½
Alco Standard	41½	41½
Allied Signal	48½	48½
Alum Co of Am	52½	51½
Amax Gold Inc	6	6⅞
Amerada Hess	53½	53½
Amer Brands	44	44½
Amer El Power	42½	42½
Amer Express	42½	41½
Amer Genl Corp	34½	34½
Amer Home Pr	96½	96½
Amer Intl	94½	94½
Amer Stores	26	25½
Amer Standard	27½	27½
Ameritech	58½	59½
Amoco	69½	69½
Anheuser-Busch	69½	69½
Apple Computer	29½	31½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	62½	62½
Asarco	29½	28½
Ashland Oil	35½	35½
Atl Richfield	112½	112½
Auto Data Pro	38½	38½
Avery Dennison	48½	48½
Avon Products	73½	74½
Baker Hughes	22½	23½
Baltim Gas & El	29	29
Banc One	35½	35½
BankAmerica	61½	60½
Bank of NY	47½	46½
Bankers Tr NY	64½	63½
Barnett Banks	55½	56½
Bausch & Lomb	39½	39½
Baxter Intl	41½	41½
Becton Dickinsn	80½	79½
Bell Atlantic	69½	69½
Bell Industries	20½	20½
BellSouth	42½	43½
Black & Decker	31½	31½
Block (H&R)	34½	33½
Boeing	77½	78½
Boise Cascade	33½	33
Bristol Myrs Sq	83½	83½
Browning Ferris	30½	29½
Brunswick	21½	21½
Burlington Nthn	75½	75½
CNA Financial	114	114½
CPC Intl	69½	70½
CSX	44	43½
Campbell Soup	59½	59½
Can Pacific	18½	18½
Cptl Cities ABC	123½	123½
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Caterpillar	59½	59
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	39½	40
Chase Manhat	61½	61½
Chemical Bk	59½	58½
Chevron Corp	53½	53½
Chrysler	54	52½
Chubb Corp	104½	103½
Cigna Corp	117½	119½
Citicorp	69½	68½
Clorox	75½	74½
Coastal Corp	36½	36½
Coca Cola	73½	73½
Colgate-Palmolive	70½	71½
Columbia Gas	43	42½
ColumbiaHCA	54½	54½
Compaq Comp	46½	44½
Comp Ass Int	62½	61½
ConAgra	43½	44½
Conrail	69½	68½
Cons Edison	33½	33½
Cons Nat Gas	45	44½
Cooper Inds	34½	35½
Corestates	37½	37½
Corning Inc	29½	29½
Crown Cork	41½	41½
Dana Corp	28	29½
Dayton Hudson	69½	70½
Deere	34½	34½
Delta Air Lines	71½	69½
Deluxe Corp	28½	28½
Detroit Edison	34½	34½
Digital Equip	66	62½
Dillard Dept St	27½	27½
Disney (Walt)	59½	59½
Dominion Res	42½	42½
Donelley (RR)	35	34½
Dover Corp	41½	42
Dow Chemical	68½	68
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	24½	23½
Duke Power	47½	48
Dun & Bradstreet	64½	65
Du Pont	70½	70½

	Jan 19 midday	Jan 18 close
Eastman Chem	61½	63½
Eastman Kodak	67	67
Eaton Corp	51½	51½
Emerson Elec	80	80½
Engelhard Corp	22	21½
Enron Corp	36	35½
Entergy	29½	30
Ethyl Corp	12½	12½
Exxon	81½	81
FMC Corp	68½	68
FPL Group	46½	46½
Federal Express	70½	69½
Fed Nat Mtge	30½	30½
First Interstate	136½	135½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	39½	39½
Fluor Corp	65½	64½
Ford Motor	27½	27½
GTE Corp	45½	45½
Gannett	61½	61½
Gap Inc Del	44½	43½
Gen Dynamics	59½	59½
Gen Electric	74	72½
Gen Mills	54½	54½
Gen Motors	47½	47½
Gen Reinsurance	151½	151½
Gen Signal	32½	32½
Genuine Parts	40½	41½
Georgia Pac	68½	66½
Gillette	53½	53½
Glaxo Welle ADR	27½	27½
Goodrich (BF)	70½	69½
Goodyear Tire	43½	43½
Grace (W&R)	56½	55½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	22½	21
Great Wstn Fin	24½	25
Halliburton	46½	47½
Harcourt General	38	40½
Heinz (HJ)	32½	33½
Hercules	56½	56
Hershey Foods	65½	66
Hewlett Packard	78½	75½
Hilton Hotels	70½	69½
Home Depot	43½	42½
Homestake Mng	18½	17½
Honeywell	46	46
Household Intl	56½	55½
Houston Inds	25½	25
Humana	27½	27½
ITT Corp	52½	52½
Illinois Tool	56½	55½
Illinova	29½	29½
INCO	33½	32½
Ingersoll Rand	36½	36½
Inland Steel	25½	24½
Intel Corp	51	51
IBM	100½	98
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48
Intl Paper	38	37½
James River Va	23½	23½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	86½	86½
Kellogg	75½	74½
Kerr-McGee	63½	62½
Kimberly-Clark	79½	79½
Kmart	6½	6½
Knight-Ridder	64½	65½
Lilly (Eli)	52½	53
Limited Inc	15½	15½
Lincoln Nat	52	52½
Litton	47½	47½
Liz Claiborne	28½	28½
Lockheed Martin	76½	77½
Louisiana Pac	24½	23½
MCI Comm	27½	27½
Marriott Int	40½	39½
Marsh & McLnn	86½	86½
Masco Corp	28½	28½
May Dept St	41½	42½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	48½	49½
McDonnell D	86½	88½
McGraw Hill	86½	86
Mead Corp	50½	50½
Medtronic	52½	52½
Mellon Bk	51	50½
Melville Corp	28½	28½
Merck Inc	65½	65½
Merrill Lynch	54½	54½
Microsoft	91	87½
Minnesota Mine	62½	62½
Mobil Corp	111½	110½
Monsanto	117½	116½
Morgan (JP)	79½	79½
Motorola Inc	59½	59½
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	34½	34½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	28½	28½
Newmont Mng	51½	53½
Ning Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	69½	68½
NL Industries	14	14½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	77½	77½
Nthn State Pwr	51½	51½
Norwest Corp	31½	31½
Nynex Corp	52	52½
Occidental Pet	20½	20½
Ohio Edison	23½	24

	Jan 19 midday	Jan 18 close
Oracle	45½	44½
Oryx Energy Co	12½	13
Owens Corning	41½	41½
PPG Industries	43	44½
PNC Bank	29½	29½
PP&L Res	25½	25½
Paccar Inc	42½	43½
Pacificorp	21½	21½
Pac Enterprises	26½	27
Pac Gas & Elec	27½	27½
Pac Telesis	30½	32½
Pall Corp	23½	24½
Panhandle East	28½	28
Parker Hannifin	33½	33½
Peco Energy	31½	31½
Penney (JC)	44½	44½
Pennzoil	40½	40½
Pepsico	57	57½
Pfizer	61½	62½
Pharm & Upjhn	38½	39
Phelps Dodge	59½	58½
Philip Morris	92½	91½
Phillips Pet	31½	32
Pitney Bowes	46½	45
Polaroid	45½	44½
PriceCostco	14½	15
Procter & Gmbl	86½	86½
Providian	43½	42½
Pub Serv E & G	30½	30½
Quaker Oats	33½	33½
Ralston Purina	59½	59½
Raychem Corp	61½	62½
Raytheon	45½	45½
Reebok Intl	26	25½
Reynolds Metals	50½	50
Rockwell Intl	55½	55½
Rohm & Haas	64½	64½
Royal Dutch	136½	136½
Rubbermaid	28½	28½
SBC Comms	55½	56½
Safeco Corp	33½	34
St Paul's Cos	57½	57½
Salomon Inc	36½	36½
Sara Lee Corp	31½	30½
Seecorp	18	18½
Schering Plough	51½	52
Schlumberger	67½	67½
Seagram	36½	36½
Sears Roebuck	39½	39½
Shell Trans	78	77½
Sherwin Wllms	40½	40½
Skyline Corp	20½	20½
Snap-On-Tools	45	45½
Southern Co	24½	25½
Sprint Corp	40½	40½
Stanley Works	49½	49
Sun Company	29½	30½
Sun Micrsys	45½	44½
SunTrust	66	65½
Supervalu	31½	31½
Sysco Corp	30½	30½
TRW Inc	76½	76½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	9½	10
Tandy Corp	37½	37½
Teledyne	25½	25½
Temple Inland	40½	40½
Tenneco	47½	47½
Texaco	79½	78½
Texas Inst	47½	47
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	76½	76
Time Warner	39½	38½
Times-Mirror A	31½	32
Timken	37½	37½
Torchmark	44½	44½
Toys R Us	21½	21½
Transamerica	75½	76
Travelers	65½	65½
Tribune	62	61½
Tyco Labs	34½	34½
UST Inc	33½	33½
UAL	160½	158½
US Inds	17½	17½
USX Marathon	19½	19½
Unicom	34½	34½
Unilever NV	142½	142½
Union Camp	45½	45½
Union Carbide	38	37½
Union Pacific	67½	66½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAIR Group	15	14½
USF&G Corp	16½	16½
US Life	32½	33
United Tech	94½	92½
Unocal Corp	28½	29
VF Corp	49½	49½
WMX Tech	29½	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	19½	19½
Warner-Lambert	91½	91½
Wells Fargo	212	211
Westinghouse El	18½	18½
Weyerhaeuser	40½	40½
Whirlpool	50½	51½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	36½	36½
Woolworth	9½	9½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	54½	55½
Xerox	139½	139½
Yellow Corp	12½	11½

[illegible]

BONUS BONANZA 30

The headlong rush to grab £17bn

WEEKEND MONEY

COSTLY COVER 36

Looking for healthy insurance

Loyal customers left in the lurch

Anne Ashworth and Karen Zagor on savers excluded from the distribution of free shares

There is growing discontent among certain longstanding customers who will not benefit from the forthcoming stock-market flotation of the Woolwich Building Society. Also aggrieved are customers of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society. Although the A&L, the fourth-largest society, has yet to announce the details of its conversion plans, certain groups already know that they will be excluded from the free share distribution.

The grievances of those who see themselves arbitrarily shut out from the four-figure payouts will increase the calls for societies intent on going public not to delay the publication of their plans. The law allows societies to fix any date they wish as the flotation qualification cut-off date.

The date can also be announced retrospectively. But this can leave loyal customers in the lurch. The Woolwich savers who are voicing their concerns are not "carpetbaggers", the term used by Peter Robinson, the Woolwich chief executive, to describe those who had recently opened accounts with the aim of profiting from the flotation largesse, but longstanding savers.

As they told *The Times*, they had, for various reasons, not kept abreast of the rumours surrounding their society, or had, unwittingly, allowed their balances to fall below the £100 qualification limit.

While the Woolwich has no plans to rectify the situation of these disgruntled savers, it does plan to help investors who switched their Tessa savings into corporate bond Peps. "Those who held Tessa accounts and transferred to a Woolwich unit trust or Woolwich life fund have until January 23 to come back to us and we will reinfranchise them," a spokeswoman said. The Woolwich is doing this because it had actively promoted the corporate bond Pep and Pepholders are not eligible for building society membership under the building society rules.

It will also accept anyone who had a mortgage offer before December 31 who accepts that offer within three months and then completes, provided they are still borrowers at the time the society converts to a bank.

Those who have arrears on their mortgages will also benefit from the share distribution. Michael Coultas from Norwich believed that the £500 worth of arrears on his £42,500 mortgage would disqualify him, although he is working hard to reduce the debt. However, the Woolwich confirmed that, so long as a borrower owed more than £100 at December 31, 1995, and remained a borrower on the conversion date, they would qualify. However, if a borrower's property is repossessed, the entitlement is lost.

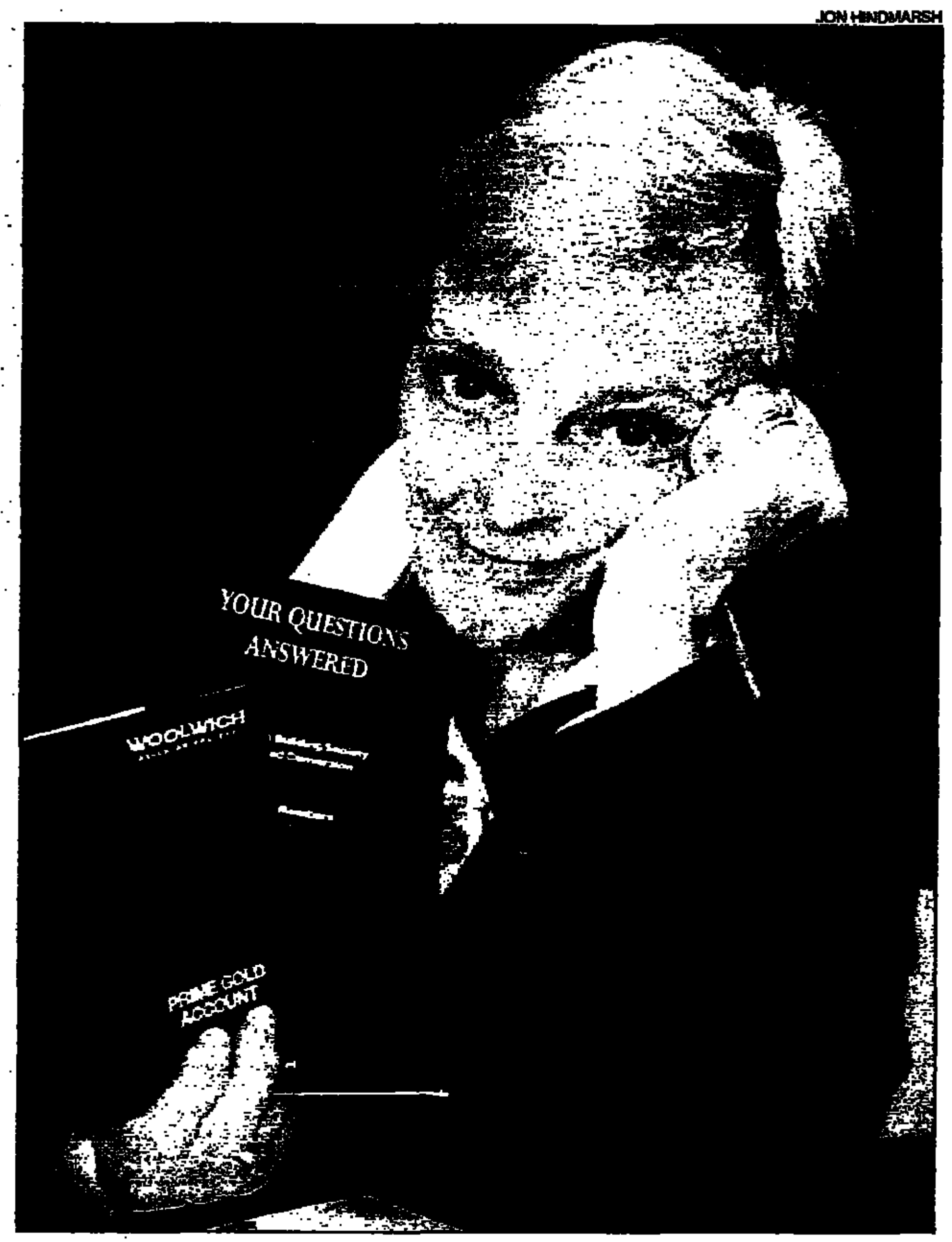
[illegible]

■ DAVID SMITH of Avely, Essex, is another disappointed long-term Woolwich saver. Over 15 years the balance in his share account has ranged from £2.81 to £5,248. But on December 31, he had only £20 in the account, with another £136 in a Woolwich current account.

"I have been wondering how many other long-term savers with the Woolwich are in a similar situation," he writes. "There must be a lot of people who withdrew money from their accounts in the run-up to Christmas to buy gifts. It seems to me that in its rush to become a bank the Woolwich is starting to act like one."

The Woolwich said that building society rules prevented it from counting as members current account-holders, as well as those with deposit accounts and investors with Woolwich subsidiaries. There will be a statutory bonus for those in membership accounts who are not eligible to vote.

JON HINDMARSH



Margaret Barnes closed her account two days after the society's cut-off date

THE LOYAL SAVER WHO MISSED OUT

■ MARGARET BARNES, from Reading, was prevented by a serious illness from following the gossip about the building society's plans to shed its mutual status (Karen Zagor writes).

On January 2, Mrs Barnes decided to close her Woolwich Prime Gold account, which she had held for 25 years, because of its declining returns. Unfortunately, only those who were qualifying savers and borrowers at December 31, 1995, and remain such until the flotation date will receive free shares. This news was not announced until January 11.

Mrs Barnes said: "Unlike the speculators so prominently mentioned in newspaper reports, we were not even aware that flotation was on the cards. As I have been seriously ill, these sorts of things have passed us by. We did not even have the opportunity to leave a minimum of £100 in our account in order to qualify, even though we were qualifying members at the cut-off date.

"I feel the Woolwich has been very negligent in protecting our position as loyal members. Once the cut-off date had been fixed, we should have been given the opportunity to maintain an account. Once the cut-off date had passed, there was no benefit to the Woolwich in keeping it secret; but much to be lost by loyal investors in the ensuing few days."

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that the board made its final decision to convert on January 3. Because of the extensive paperwork involved in notifying 4.25 million members of its decision, the society waited until January 11 to make its announcement.

BRANCH CLOSURE HITS BONUS

■ AN elderly reader who prefers not to be named is barred from the share largesse by the closure of her branch. She shut her account in early January after 13 years with the society when she learnt that her branch, in Deal, Kent, was being closed on January 5. Accounts were to be moved to the Ramsgate branch 14 miles away.

For a pensioner without a car, who used the account for small transactions, this was untenable. So she moved her funds to the Northern Rock, across the road.

She said: "There are many people like me in this district — pensioners, who feel rather miffed at losing any bonuses after many years with the society."

The Woolwich said: "The closing of branches and the decision to convert were not related at all. The branches were closed for good business reasons. We do try to take steps to keep customers with us, albeit they may have to travel further to a branch or deal with us by post."

Rodabe Rudin has fallen foul of Alliance & Leicester rules

[illegible]

■ THE Alliance & Leicester this week closed its Bonus 90, Bonus 180, Keysaver, Midas and Tessa share accounts which conferred membership rights and the right to benefit from the society's flotation. The only accounts now open to new investors are deposit accounts which do not carry the all-important membership rights. The distinction between a share and a deposit account is not always clear to customers.

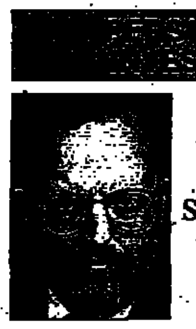
One saver who has fallen foul of this ruling is Rodabe Rudin from East Grinstead in Sussex. In December, Mrs Rudin, a town council facilities manager, received £3,000 in compensation for injuries she received in an accident. This was not sufficient to open a Bonus 90 or Bonus 180 account which both had a £5,000 minimum investment. This meant that she had to opt for Prime Deposit Account, a deposit account.

However, the branch promised that she could convert the Prime Deposit into a Bonus 90 or 180, as soon as she received the £2,700 proceeds from an endowment policy in January. Mrs Rudin called at the branch on Wednesday only to be told that the share accounts were no longer available and that she could not transfer the cash from her Prime Deposit account into either of the share accounts. Mrs Rudin said "I felt shabbily treated, especially as I had been assured that I could convert the account into a share account with a higher rate of interest. My aim in opening the account was not to benefit from the flotation but to find a home for two windfalls. I was given no indication that the deposit account did not carry membership rights."

The Alliance & Leicester said any customer now transferring between accounts would lose their membership status. The only exception were savers who moved the proceeds of their matured tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) into a new Tessa. The branch had not lied to Mrs Rudin, as in December it would have been possible to switch from a deposit account to a share account.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

It's good to stay in control



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

After the Halifax and the Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Britannia may join a queue of building societies determined to convert into quoted plcs. But what kind of plcs do their members, the potential future shareholders, want them to be?

These societies are unlikely to reach the stock market for eighteen months. But now is the time for them to think through whether they want to ape Abbey National, now just like most other banks, or to become a different kind of company that carries advantages of plc status but retains some of the character of building societies.

Conversion distributes a capital windfall today, but creates an obligation to pay dividends on that capital in future. Members suddenly find concrete evidence that they were stakeholders in their societies all along, even if most did not realise it. As shareholders, many may want to cash in, say thanks for the memory and revert to the status of just depositor or borrower.

As many millions may wish to keep that newly realised stake and even to exercise rights attached to it, such as voting on the policies of the board and the pay and perks of top management. If societies follow the pattern of privatised companies, such as British Gas, most shares and all power will end up in the hands of City fund managers. Directors will then pander to City culture, which values massive share options for bosses and mass firing of employees. They will ignore small investors, whose opinions vary unpredictably on such matters, as a tedious impotent nuisance. That City control can be good for financial performance. Feeling institutional barons breathing down their necks gives managers a great incentive to guard cash flow and keep it flowing to investors.

If members still want to stay in charge, they could press for constitutions that stop the barons elbowing them aside. For once, they are in a position to insist. It only needs rules that prevent any one holder or agent from voting more than 1 per cent (or 10 per cent or 0.1 per cent) of the capital. You could even limit dividend rights similarly. And to stop management becoming takeover-proof, you could allow a simple numerical majority of shareholders to remove the restrictions, or automatically enfranchise any bidder who secures more than 60 per cent acceptances. There are lots of variations if the will is there.

What of those managers, who are well placed to manipulate the passage to flotation? They may merely want a quotation to establish a better price for a future takeover of the business, and options and contract terms that would make that pay them well. They may want to use the quotation to expand the group by acquisition, and be anxious to play by the rules of the fund barons who could most reliably back future share issues. Or they might want to keep the character of the society in plc form, doubtless including the tradition of ignoring members' wishes.

Members should therefore expect their managers to tell them that only conversion to a conventional, City-controlled plc is possible, practical or sensible. This is what their City advisers, brokers and fund managers will tell them. Norwich Union, the insurance group that will convert from mutual to plc, is itself a top baron.

Such advice is wrong. There is nothing in Stock Exchange listing rules, or in guidelines from the Institutional Shareholders Committee, to prevent small shareholders setting rules to stop City barons taking control. Some will vote with their feet and boycott the shares, but not many if all societies adopt similar rules. Only if the board plans to issue lots of new shares for acquisitions — rarely a good idea for investors — are the barons needed.

There is always a price to play. Any restriction that limits potential market demand for a company's shares will affect their price. Members and managers should weigh that carefully against the value of control before they decide what shape their flotations should take.

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*Sources: *Micropal, UK investment trust capital growth sector, mid price to mid price, net income reinvested from 25.4.94 to 29.12.95. Schroder UK Growth Fund plc 1st out of 8.*
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Bounty hunters' bonus bonanza

Karen Zagor on the ramifications of the headlong rush into building societies that could very soon add £17 billion to the pockets of consumers

Bounty hunters searching for bonuses from the next building society merger or stock market flotation have poured into the Alliance & Leicester, Britannia, Bristol & West and Bradford & Bingley building societies in recent months. The influx has been so great that the Britannia and Alliance & Leicester both stopped accepting new customers this week for accounts that confer membership status.

Although A&L is still paying lip-service to mutuality, the move was seen widely as a harbinger to a flotation announcement. Shortly before the Woolwich revealed its flotation plans last week, it closed its doors to new depositors who were opening accounts at a rate of 15,000 a day. Those who rushed to open accounts to get a bonus — dubbed "carpetbaggers by the Woolwich's chief executive — will have been thwarted: the cut-off date for eligibility for a Woolwich bonus was December 31.

The Building Societies Commission has said societies have free rein to choose a payout qualifying date. When the A&L follows the Woolwich's lead and converts from a building society to a publicly held bank, the proportion of adults in the UK benefiting from a windfall merely by being qualifying members of a building society will reach about 45 per cent, adding about £17 billion to consumers' pockets, according to Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe. Mr Briscoe's estimate includes the one million members of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society who have already received an average bonus of £2,200 each from the takeover by Lloyds Bank.

When the dust settles, the building society sector will be a lot smaller. Of the top six societies in terms of assets in 1995, only the Nationwide will remain. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, says the Nationwide will be the only society left that is big enough to convert. This leaves merger as the main option for smaller societies looking to expand. By growing through merger, societies can cut their overheads, making it easier to offer competitive mortgage and savings rates, while remaining committed to mutuality.

New rules, which came in last October, allow a society to distribute up to 5 per cent of its assets to members if they agree to a merger. The increase from 1 per cent makes it more likely that members of smaller societies would approve merger plans. An alternative is for societies to form federal links, spreading the costs of new technology and marketing without losing their independence.

While consumers are betting on more merger activity in the new year, Mr Thomas expects a period of calm. He says: "Members now expect to get money from a merger, but the members of the acquiring society don't get anything, so there is always the possibility that a merger announcement would open the two societies to an unwelcome hostile approach. It was the N&P's abortive attempt to merge with the Leeds which ultimately led Abbey National to make its move. I imagine most societies will keep their heads down."

Outside the building society sector, picking company shares for their takeover potential can be lucrative, as holders of Forte shares can attest. But choosing takeover stocks is an inexact science and speculators run the risk of big losses.

BILL SANDERSON

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL

As part of the takeover offer from Abbey National bank, which itself converted from a building society in 1989, qualifying National & Provincial borrowers and savers of less than two year's standing at December 31, 1995 will get £500 in Abbey National shares.

Those who have saved for more than two years will get £750, which they can take in cash or shares. They will also get extra cash or shares in proportion to their savings. The amount is expected to be at least 5 per cent of savings. Provided N&P members approve the offer, the deal is expected to be completed by the end of this summer. The share distribution should follow shortly afterwards, and new shareholders who want to cash in can expect access to a dedicated sharedealing service.

Value of takeover offer: £1.35bn.
N&P Helpline: 0345 697349.

CITY & METROPOLITAN

Stroud & Swindon started the year by announcing the takeover of City & Metropolitan. Qualifying City & Metropolitan savers will get a £50 bonus, plus the lower of 5 per cent of their balance on November 30, 1995 or April 18, 1996. The top payout will be £2,500 on savings of £50,000.

Potential gain for members: £5 million.
C&M Helpline: 0345 045012.

NATIONWIDE

The Nationwide, now the second biggest building society, will become the biggest once the Halifax converts. It is substantial enough to become a plc in its own right, but has said it intends to retain its mutuality. It may, however, prove an attractive takeover target itself for one of the big banks. The Nationwide is not believed to be hunting for other societies to acquire.

Potential gains for members: £5 billion.

FORTE

As the countdown continues to the close of Granada's bid for Forte, investors stand to make a pretty penny. At the time Granada made its offer, Forte shares were 275p.

Granada's offer, revised last week, added a special dividend of 47p per share and included four new Granada shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forte. The revised Granada offer values Forte at 388p (at trading close on January 18), or 362p a share for the all-cash offer.

Shareholders will have to weigh up whether this is better than Forte's move to elicit shareholder loyalty. This includes an £800 million Forte share buyback and distribution of Savoy sharesat between 330p and 400p, and a pledge to raise its final dividend by 21 per cent this year, and for dividend increases of at least 20 per cent a year for three years. Under the buyback, shareholders will receive £84 gross for every 100 shares, plus £23 of Savoy shares and a continuing interest in the new Forte of 79 shares. The increase would lift Forte's dividend to at least 14.69p net for 1998-99. Both Granada and Forte will lift the investor Gold Card discount to 12.5 per cent. Private investors will not benefit from any tax credits.

Helplines: Granada, 0171 490 5200
Forte: 0800 468 602

THE OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES

Just as the takeover rumours surrounding the Bristol & West in recent months had started to die down, the society this week revived the speculation by lifting the minimum amount needed to open a membership-conferring account to £2,500. Although the move was intended to deter bonanza hunters, it is bound to have the opposite effect.

Almost every society that has ended up merging or converting to plc status has started the ball rolling by raising the minimum amounts needed to open saving accounts or shutting out new savers from accounts that confer membership status.

A day later, **Northern Rock** followed **Bristol & West**, increasing the minimum opening investment in all share accounts to £2,500 from £250. Adam Applegarth, the society's general manager, said: "We have consistently said speculation may force us to take this step and for the time being the genuine small saver will be unable to open an account with Northern Rock. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to return to a more sensible opening balance."

Bristol & West is regarded as the weakest of the 20 top building societies. It is not in a strong enough position to convert on its own, but its lacklustre performance may make it an attractive takeover target. The society maintains that it has no plans to merge or convert. Other potential takeover or merger candidates on the speculation list include the **Chelsea**, **Skipton**, **Lambeth**, **Scarborough**, **Coventry** and **National Counties**. Gamblers are also betting that more mutual insurers will follow **Norwich Union**'s decision to float.

Less likely candidates include the **Britannia**, **Bradford & Bingley** and the **Yorkshire**. The Britannia has led the pack in announcing plans to reward members by sharing profits with them rather than converting. It is big enough to acquiresmaller societies.

The Yorkshire has set minimum rates on savings accounts and is offering permanently discounted mortgages to give members more reasons to applaud mutuality. Meanwhile **Northern Rock** has started paying loyalty bonuses to long-term mortgage customers. But, as Halifax members can attest, protestations of eternal mutuality can come to naught.

HALIFAX

Members of the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies, which merged last August, are expected to get between £800 and £1,000 in shares when the now enlarged Halifax goes public, probably early next year.

Longer-standing members will get extra shares based on the size of their savings. If the first-named person on a joint mortgage or savings account dies before the flotation, the second named will receive the basic bonus, but not any additional variable distributions.

The exact value of the free share issue will be decided immediately before the flotation. The Halifax is believed to be considering a scheme that would guarantee members a minimum share price. Those under 18, or with less than £100 in their account, will get cash payments.

Potential gain for members: £8 billion.
Members' helpline: 0800 88844.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

Alliance & Leicester, the fourth biggest building society, continues to be coy on the subject of flotation, but an announcement is believed to be imminent. It is expected that the Alliance & Leicester's plan will include paying qualifying savers an average of £900 in shares. Speculators can no longer open qualifying accounts at the Alliance & Leicester.

Potential gains for members: £3 billion.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY

Bradford & Bingley is very committed to mutuality. To deter treasure-hunters, it set a minimum opening balance of £500 on its savings accounts last year. In the coming weeks, the society will announce a members benefits scheme, giving members a tangible taste of the society's profits. A spokesman said: "We have no intention of trying to convert or merge."

Potential gains for members: £1.5 billion.

WOOLWICH

Woolwich members will have to wait a bit longer. The conversion of the third biggest building society into a publicly held bank and the associated stock market flotation is not expected before the end of next year.

The flotation, which values the society at about £3.5 billion for members, will translate into about £1,000 for each qualifying member.

The Woolwich modelled its conversion plans on those of the Halifax, increasing the odds of a successful outcome.

Those who qualify for a bonus include savers and borrowers with at least £100 in one of the society's share accounts, or £100 outstanding on a mortgage on December 31, 1995. The account or mortgage must remain open until after the conversion.

Savers need to be careful not to withdraw too much money from their accounts. The size of the payout will depend on the lower of two balances, one on December 31, 1995, and the other on a date to be determined. Anyone who depletes their savings account in the meantime, risks losing a portion of the bonus.

Potential gains for members: £3.5 billion.
Woolwich helpline: 0345 022033.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Will it pay to switch to a rival of British Gas?

The rule of British Gas is, at last, to be challenged. In the first moves towards full domestic competition in the gas supply market, householders will have the option to switch to a British Gas rival. The lure will be savings of about £50 on an annual bill of £350. The first pilot scheme begins in the early summer. But how will the break with tradition work? We answer your questions.

Q In what areas will consumers be offered an alternative to British Gas?

A About 500,000 household customers will be eligible to switch supplier, in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. Competition is scheduled to begin on April 1, though largely because of delays in drawing up licences at the Department of Trade and Industry, British Gas is calling for the start date to be put back to June 1. From April 1, 1997, the pilot is scheduled to be extended to a further 1.5 million homes in Avon, Dorset, East and West Sussex and Kent. Under the 1995 Gas Act, nationwide competition must be introduced by January 1, 1999.

Q Tell me more about the companies who are coming into the market. Are they established businesses who can be relied on to maintain gas supply? Or are they opportunists?

A Many of these rivals have the backing of leading international oil companies that produce gas in the North Sea, such as Amerada Hess, Phillips Petroleum and Total. Others are backed by utilities such as Sweb and Eastern Electricity. Some have spent millions of pounds preparing to compete for customers. Each will be licensed by the Department of Industry, which will seek to ensure customers are not left in the lurch.

Q Who will bear the cost of switching, the householder, or the supplier? Will I need new equipment installed? Will it be complicated?

A There will be no charge for switching supplier. Gas will be supplied through existing pipes, and measured by the existing meter. The householder will sign a contract with a new supplier, who will make all the arrangements. The householder may be asked to read the meter on the handover day and send off the reading, although British Gas staff will try to check as many as they can.

Q If I switch to one of the newcomers, what will my saving be? Will the price differential be maintained, or will the newcomers gradually increase prices? What will the level be of standing charges?

A Not every potential player has yet declared its hand. One that has is Amerada Hess Gas, which is promising savings of 15 per cent, or around £50, on the average annual bill of £350. That is based upon a 15 per cent cut in the British Gas standing charge of £9.48 a quarter, as well as cheaper fuel. Amerada is promising to fix prices for two years.

Q How is British Gas fighting back, or will it give up without a fight?

A British Gas certainly won't give up without a fight. It aims to keep customers by persuading them it offers the best service.

Q Will British Gas try to match the price saving?

A Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, says British Gas will be free to offer price cuts to customers in the South West. But it will have problems doing so, because of the high price at which it has contracted to buy its gas supplies. It might also face problems with the Office of Fair Trading if it offered lower prices in an area where there is competition than in areas where its monopoly has yet to be removed. We do not know whether Ofgas will oblige it to maintain identical prices nationwide.

Q In the light of British Gas problems with its service contract, will the competitors be offering similar service deals, or will they shy away from such arrangements?

A Service contracts will be on offer at lower prices than the £93 charged by British Gas for a three-star contract in the South-West. Amerada has teamed up with Sun Alliance to promise an annual service contract for £80.

Q Will the newcomers be regulated by Ofgas, or can they, largely speaking, do as they please? What protection will be given to the elderly and those customers with difficulty making repayments?

A The newcomers will require licences issued by the Department of Trade and Industry to operate, and will be supervised by Ofgas. The existing Gas Care register for pensioners and the disabled will be continued under the new licensing arrangements. People who have difficulty paying their bills will be offered advice, including the option of a prepayment meter. They will not simply be cut off.

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The latest chapter in the pensions debacle

The history books of the next millennium will relate how the £4 billion personal pension scandal of the 1990s damaged the reputation of the financial services industry. They will also tell how life insurance companies were given an opportunity to salvage their good names but, inexplicably, failed to seize the chance. Businesses that spent advertising marketing millions each year to persuade potential customers of their solidity and general excellence lost much of their credibility by not making swift amends to the scandal's victims. In an act of corporate self-destruction, they preferred to postpone compensation payments to these 1.5 million individuals, although apologies and generous handouts would have been a public relations coup.

For these people, wrongly advised to leave or never join company pension schemes, the curious behaviour of the insurers and the other members of their industry is of more than academic interest. A progress report into the Securities and Investments Board's review of personal pension mis-selling, published this week, reveals that the compensation process is proceeding at a snail's pace. Unless there is some action soon, the sorting out of the personal pension problem may grow into as large a *cause célèbre* as the scandal itself.

As we report on page 33, several household name insurance companies have yet to write a single compensation cheque. Also dragging their feet are some independent financial advisers (IFAs), who have taken refuge behind judicial reviews and other pretexts for procrastination. One of the main reasons for consulting an IFA is the personal care and disinterested attention supposedly on offer. Being kept in the dark about your right to redress scarcely suggests a special relationship. Those advisers who take their duties seriously must wonder what madness has gripped their peers and whether they still value the continued existence of independent advice.

According to the SIB report, as many as 250,000 of the most urgent cases for compensation, including nurses, miners and policemen, have yet to be told by their adviser that compensation could be available. This piece of information alone indicates that the SIB and the other regulators involved in the affair are acting more as trade associations, than as watchdogs. In indulgent Oprah Winfrey-style, the SIB is empathising with its members' problems, rather than attributing blame and issuing rebukes.

If, by the spring, some life insurance companies and independent advisers are still reluctant to act, the watchdogs should use some of their members' money to mount an advertising campaign alerting potential claimants to their rights. Such a move would be a neat counterpoint to the Government-sponsored campaign of the early Eighties, which promoted personal pensions as the universal panacea and the route to retirement income fulfilment. The SIB should also act to ensure that no claim will be time-barred under the six-year legal limit.

To give life insurers and the rest an example of how to behave, anyone receiving a claim form should send it back as soon as possible. This means that they will have no more excuses for putting off to tomorrow what they should do today.

Called to account

IT WAS inevitable that a number of customers would be excluded from the Woolwich and the soon-to-be announced Alliance & Leicester flotations, but unfortunate that some of these should be long-term savers. These were people who saw the society as a convenient home for their cash, rather than as a means to a profit. They have paid the price for not following the rumours about which society would be the next to go public.

Their experience will make other savers wary of closing accounts and even more suspicious of building society chief executives who ceaselessly voice their commitment to mutuality, while having talks with merchant bankers. It is, perhaps, in the nature of any business to say one thing and do another. But building society directors should realise that their business, whether as a mutual, or as quoted company, is based on good will which merchant bankers can quantify, but not supply.

How a brief bout of bankruptcy can blight your future

Karen Zagor on the insolvency that faces the Duchess of York and thousands of others each year

The Duchess of York could face bankruptcy proceedings

As the Duchess of York contemplates the prospect of personal bankruptcy over her mounting debts and the Queen's refusal to pay the bill, she can take comfort in the fact that she is in good company. In the last year, scriptwriter and actor Colin Welland, Paula Yates, former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton and Screaming Lord Sutch have all come close to bankruptcy.

For the formerly rich and currently famous, personal bankruptcy is an inconvenience that need not be devastating. Celebrities can get mileage out of their fame, even when they fall on hard times. It is hard to imagine the Duchess of York ever being denied access to a bank account or credit card even if her creditors do force her to declare bankruptcy. But for the tens of thousands of ordinary people who also become insolvent every year, even a brief bout of bankruptcy can blight their prospects for years to come.

John Alexander, head of insolvency for accountants Pannell Kerr Forster, cautions that "bankruptcy can hang over you for years. Someone who has once been bankrupt may never get a mortgage, credit card or bank account again. It can ruin your credit rating forever."

Strictly speaking, insolvency is the state of being unable to pay debts when they fall due and bankruptcy is the formal insolvency procedure for individuals. The number of individual insolvencies in England and Wales is starting to decline after shooting up sharply in the early 1990s. In the first nine months of last year, there were 20,044 individual insolvencies, down from 24,095 a year ago. This is an improvement on 1992, when the number of individual insolvencies hit a peak of 36,794. But the 1995 numbers are significantly higher than in 1990, when there were only 13,987 individual insolvencies.

If no one steps in to save the Duchess, she may be able to avoid bankruptcy with an Indivdual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA). Essentially, this is a schedule of payments that have been agreed upon by the creditors. For the debtor, the main advantage is that it avoids the stigma, and the possible long-lasting disadvantages, of a formal bankruptcy. "An IVA only works if you can show creditors that they would get more than they would from a bankruptcy. If someone is avoiding the disabilities of bankruptcy, they can expect to have to pay more in compensation," says Mr Alexander.

Typically, the parties involved will determine how much money the debtor needs to live. Any earnings above that amount are split between the debtor and creditors. This provides an incentive for the debtor to keep earning more while allowing the creditors to benefit from any improvement in the debtor's earnings.

Most IVA arrangements last from three to five years, this is longer than the bankruptcy process, where there is an automatic discharge after three years. They also tend to be more expensive than bankruptcy proceedings. Insolvency practitioner fees are high, starting at £1,500. In comparison, a debtor would pay £275 to become bankrupt, but would also face solicitor's fees.

If the Duchess is unable to reach an agreement, she may have to declare herself bankrupt or her creditors could apply to the court for a bankruptcy order. Once an order is made, an Official Receiver takes control of the estate and arranges for a Trustee to be appointed. The Trustee's job includes selling all the debtor's assets and distributing the cash to creditors. The Duchess could lose all future rights to earnings from her Budgie The Helicopter books, as copyright is considered an asset, as well her jewellery and designer gowns.

During the bankruptcy period, the Duchess would be prohibited from a number of occupations including becoming a lawyer, accountant, company director or black cab driver. Nor will she be allowed credit of more than £250 without disclosing her bankrupt status. After three years, these restrictions would be lifted, but her credit rating would be blackened forever.

WHAT'S THE BEST OPTION FOR YOU

BANRUPTCY may be the best option if you have little in the way of assets and do not own property. A bankruptcy typically lasts for less time than an IVA and the debtor usually pays less. Any amount owing after the bankruptcy is discharged can usually be written off.

Although the bankruptcy is discharged after three years, it may prevent you from ever getting a mortgage, credit card or bank account and may make it impossible ever to practice as a solicitor or accountant.

To become bankrupt, you must first petition the county court using a form 6.27, an affidavit and statement of affairs. Any creditor owed £750 or more can also petition. The petition is followed by a court hearing. An insolvency practitioner may be appointed as trustee and a creditors committee may also be formed.

IVAs are imperative for anyone who runs a business, drives a cab or is in public office. If you are in one of the professions where bankruptcy is prohibited, you will not be able to work while you are bankrupt, but an IVA generally will not have the same impact. If you run a business, it will be able to trade and generate income. Although all IVAs are recorded in a public register, they are less likely to ruin your credit rating than a bankruptcy. With an IVA, you are not under the same obligation to reveal your tainted credit history as a bankrupt.

To arrange an IVA, contact a licensed insolvency practitioner who will help prepare the proposal and will ultimately help the debtor apply to the court for an interim order. This will be followed by a creditors meeting. Once all parties are agreed, a supervisor (usually the insolvency practitioner) will police the arrangement, ensuring regular payments to the creditors. If the terms of the agreement are broken, the supervisor can petition for bankruptcy.

The Debt Advice Handbook is available from the Child Poverty Action Group Ltd, 1-5 Bath Street, London ECIV 9PY. Cost £9.95.

KAREN ZAGOR

MONEY GUIDES

Look out for the second series of Weekend Money Guides which will appear on five consecutive weeks, starting next Saturday.

We begin with an A-Z of Personal Finance, explaining everything from the different types of financial advisers to National Savings, the home for £53 billion worth of the nation's cash. In the weeks that follow we will expand on some of the entries, namely, tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), Personal Equity Plans (Peps), Personal Pensions and Tax and Financial Planning. This will tell you how to claim your tax allowances and reliefs in time for the end of the tax year.

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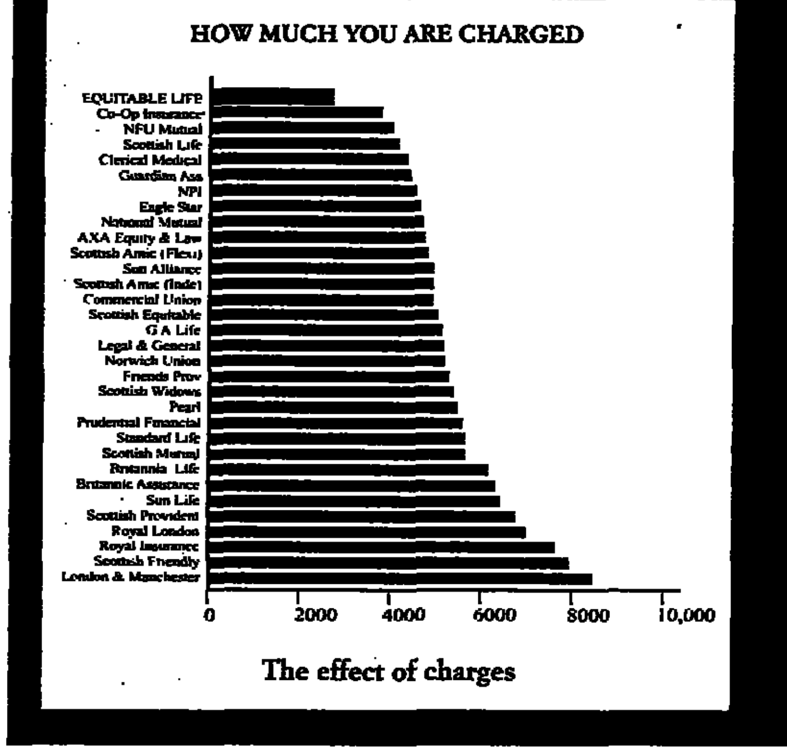

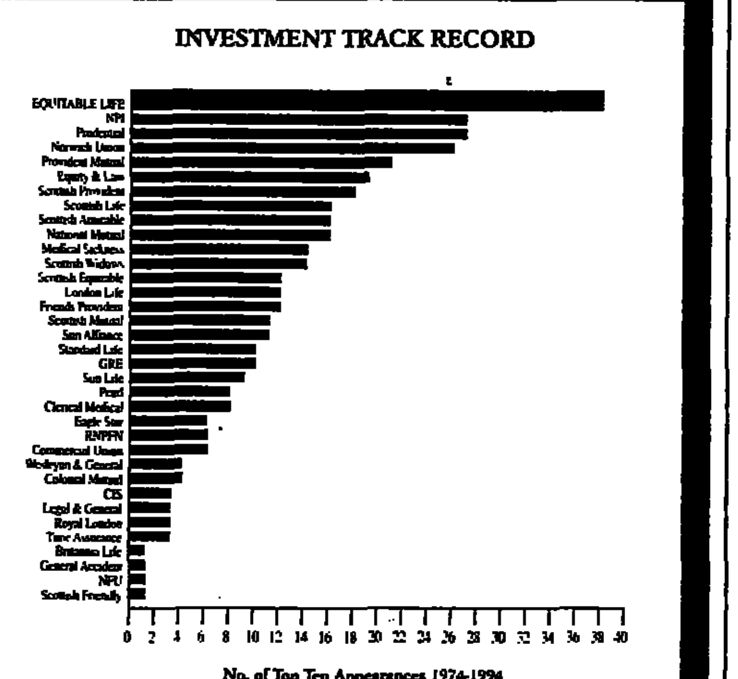

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هكذا من الأصل

Mis-sold, opted-out and still uncompensated

One year on, the pensions saga is still unresolved, **Caroline Merrell** and **Marianne Curphy** report

John Malkovich and Dustin Hoffman in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

Pearl Assurance, one of the UK's biggest insurers, is facing a bill of up to £240 million for paying compensation to policyholders who have been mistakenly advised to opt out of their company pension schemes to take out a Pearl pension.

However, despite the fact the pensions review was announced by regulators more than a year ago, Pearl and many other insurance companies and independent financial advisers have yet to pay out a penny in compensation.

This week, consumer bodies and the Labour Party attacked the Securities and Investments Board for not being harsh enough on those who had missed the year-end deadline for compensating the high priority cases.

Pearl admitted it had found 40,000 opt-out cases, about half of which are high priority. The bill for compensating those who have been mistakenly opted out has been estimated at about £6,000 to £10,000 per case. It has sent out 300,000 letters.

The process for dealing with compensation has been hampered by a number of legal and practical problems.

Other life assurance companies are further ahead with the process. Barclays Life has sent out 145,000 questionnaires. It has isolated 10,000 cases needing further investigation. Of those, 300 have been processed and 160 have received compensation.

Allied Dunbar has sent out 250,000 questionnaires and has compensated about 100 people. It has sent out a total 700,000 letters. The Personal Investment Authority says clients must be sent three reminders.

Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary with Britannic Assurance, said: "The public are reluctant to buy life products and will continue to be so until after the review."

Britannic, which has 200,000 policyholders, has settled a "handful" of cases but declined to give a figure for the value of compensation paid out. "We anticipate a lot more cases will be sorted out but there are still many questionnaires which have not been returned," Mr Shaw said.

Legal & General, which has 1.4 million with-profits policyholders and a 3 per cent share of the £11.5 billion personal pensions market, has not released any figures on compensation paid out. A spokesman said: "It has never been our policy to do so."

Lloyds Abbey Life, which has 250,000 personal pensions holders in Abbey Life and 125,000 in Black Horse Financial Services, said it had made payouts of "several thousands" to a small number of clients.

The Prudential said occupational schemes could refuse to take people back, in which case the life companies would top up their personal pension instead. The Pru has sent out half of the 660,000 questionnaires required with a 70 per cent response. It has not yet paid any compensation, but it believes the process will be completed "towards the end of the year".

The compensation process could be even longer for those who were mis-sold a personal pension by an independent financial adviser (IFA). IFAs have been embroiled in a dispute over their professional indemnity cover, which will ultimately bear the brunt of the compensation bill.

ACTION YOU SHOULD TAKE

IF YOU were sold a personal pension by a representative of a life assurance company, you should have received at least one letter asking about the details of the sale. Do not throw it in the bin in the belief it is just another circular (Caroline Merrell writes).

You may have also received reminders about the questionnaire and if you have ignored them as well, you may have forfeited your right to compensation.

If you were sold a pension by an independent financial adviser (IFA), you may or may not have received some correspondence. If the IFA which sold you the pension has ceased to exist, then you will not have been contacted. If you think you may be eligible for compensation, ie, if you have transferred, opted out of, or not joined a company pension scheme on the advice of a defunct IFA, contact the Personal Investment Authority.

Finally, you have the right to go to court if you think you have been mis-sold a pension.

The address of the PIA pensions unit: Hertsmere House, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AB.

Cut in base rate brings no joy for borrowers

THIS week's 0.25 per cent cut in base rates is unlikely to lead to further reductions in the mortgage rate. The drop in rates to 6.25 per cent had been widely anticipated and the UK's biggest lenders pointed out that they had already cut rates in anticipation of the move. As a result, the mortgage rate will remain unchanged at 7.49 per cent.

On the other hand, the rate for millions of savers was cut this week. The Halifax cut its rates by 0.55 per cent on average. A sum of £5,000 in its instant access account now earns 3.25 per cent gross, down from 3.85 per cent. Nationwide cut rates by 0.44 per cent — its instant access account will now pay 3.2 per cent interest gross.

Halifax, Abbey National and the Woolwich were among the first to announce that they did not anticipate cutting mortgage rates.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We moved to cut the rate in November by 0.25 per cent cut it again by 0.25 per cent in December. We do not plan any further moves in the mortgage rate." A Woolwich spokesman said: "Our mortgage rate will remain at 7.49 per cent. This cut had already been anticipated. We will continue to keep our rates under review to make sure our savers and borrowers are not disadvantaged."

Base rates have been cut by 0.5 per cent over the past twelve months. Rates were cut in February last year to 6.75 per cent, they were cut again in December to 6.5 per cent, and were finally cut again this Thursday to 6.25 per cent. In comparison mortgage rates were cut from 8.4 per cent to 7.99 per cent in September, with another cut to 7.74 per cent in November, and a final cut to 7.49 per cent in December.

A mortgage rate of 7.49 per cent means that a someone with a £60,000 repayment mortgage will pay £420.09, while someone with an endowment mortgage will pay £346.43.

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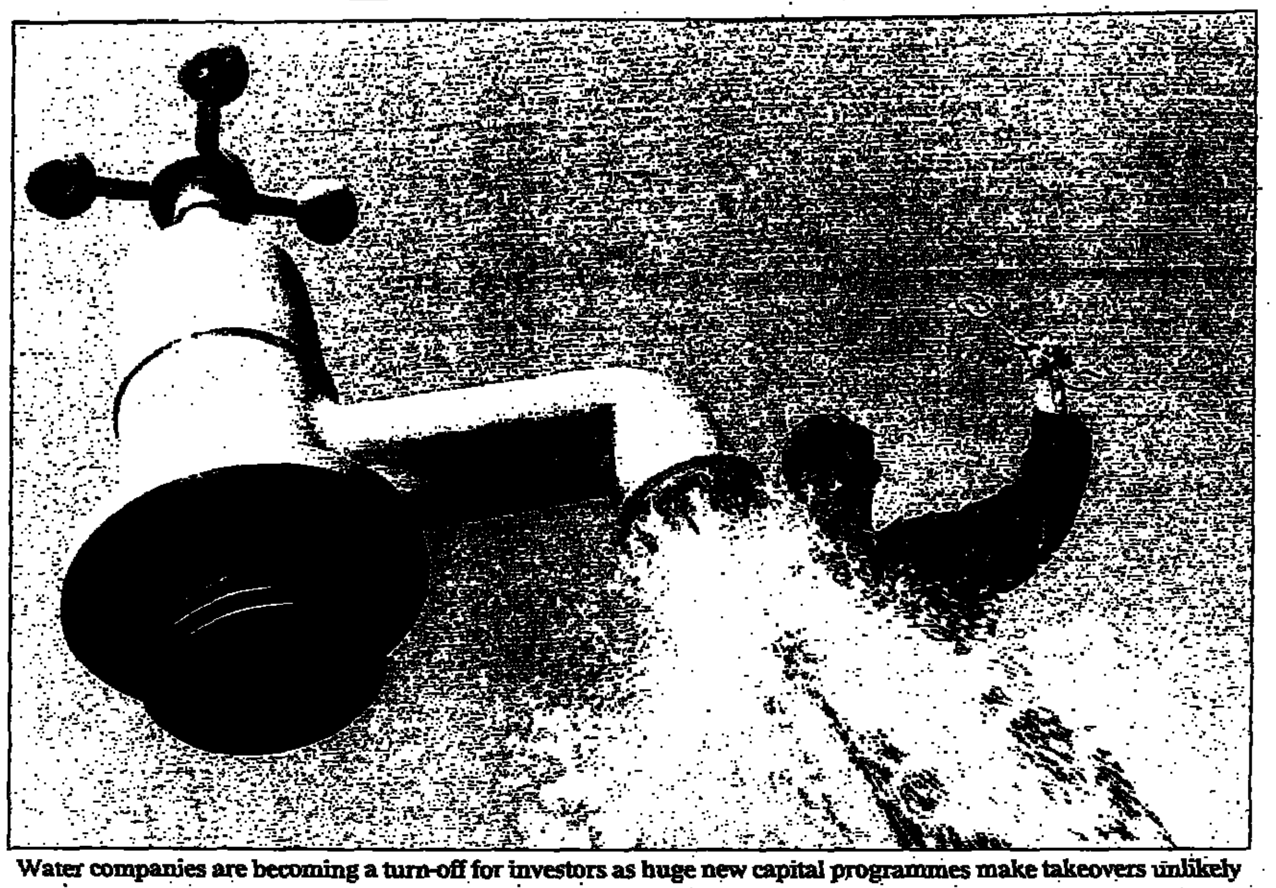
WEEKEND MONEY

PRIVATISATION SPECIAL

The clock is now ticking for shareholders in PowerGen and National Power who have until February 6 to decide whether to pay the second instalment on their part-paid shares, or to sell. This week we look at how the two power generators have performed compared with the other privatised utilities and with what else the Government may be hoping to tempt investors.


Water companies are becoming a turn-off for investors as huge new capital programmes make takeovers unlikely

[Q] How have PowerGen and National Power fully paid shares performed?

[A] PowerGen and National Power first came to the market in 1991 when the Government sold a 60 percent stake in each. Both were floated at an initial price of 175p, payable in two parts. At current levels the shares have risen by 197 per cent for PowerGen and 151 per cent for National Power, but well behind the regional electricity companies leading the table. Looking at dividend performance however the picture is different. According to Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Yamaichi Bank, taking 1995 dividend payments together with forecast payments through to 1997, the power generators are amongst the top performers. PowerGen shows a 47 per cent increase and National Power is up 36 per cent.

[Q] How have the shares of the other privatised utilities performed?

[A] Investors who have followed each of the privatisations from British Telecom in 1984 will have seen the best returns from the 12 regional electricity companies which floated in 1990. Money invested in the ten water authorities privatised in 1989 have seen solid, but less spectacular, increases. Water companies are less attractive takeover targets with their commitment to large capital investment programmes making them an expensive purchase. The only takeover exception to date is the Lyonnaise des Eaux bid for Northumbrian Water which has boosted the latter's share performance. Wessex Water and Southern are tipped as possible bid targets, which will help to keep their shares buoyant, but for the sector overall, popularity with investors has suffered as a result of problems caused by drought and burst pipes, together with the threat to the windfall tax under a Labour government.

Near the bottom of the performance table comes British Gas, privatised in 1986. The increase in share price from 135p at flotation to present levels around 250p leaves it way behind the Recs. As British Gas undergoes its major restructuring ahead of increased competition in the market and copes with the costly problem of excess supply against demand, the prospect of a flat, or even a reduced, dividend is unlikely to thrill investors.

[Q] What other privatisations are coming to the market?

[A] The Government has two lined up for 1996. First will be Railtrack. Around one third of the issue, expected to value Railtrack at up to £2.5bn, is earmarked for the public with the promise of discounts or bonus shares. Details are expected in March. This summer is the expected date of the British Energy privatisation. It is expected part of the issue will be set aside for the public, though details have yet to be finalised.

CLARE STEWART

Bond that blooms with FT-SE

Sun Alliance hopes to bring back thoughts of summer

HIT OR MISS

Miserable as the garden looks at this time of year, Sun Alliance is hoping to attract investors with a new series of floral products. First off is the Rose Bond.

The name may be new but the product is a standard guaranteed investment bond. When you buy a bond you give a lump sum to the bond provider, usually a life assurance company, which invests your money, together with that of thousands of other investors, in stocks and shares and government securities.

The company in this case is Phoenix Assurance, which is owned by Sun Alliance and operates Sun Alliance's direct sales arm. The bit that is guaranteed in this bond is a full refund at the end of five years of your initial investment, with a return of at least 17 per cent. That works out at a guaranteed return of 3.2 per cent net a year. The bond will also pay the equivalent of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index, based on the average value of the index over the past 12 months of the policy. Sun Alliance says that recent past performance of the FT-SE 100 indicates an average return of 51.6 per cent. If that happens over the next five years, you would be getting an average annual return of 9 per cent. The return from bonds at the end of their term is paid after the deduction of basic rate income tax, which cannot be reclaimed if you are a non-taxpayer. If you are a higher rate tax payer at the time there will be an additional tax charge. The bond should be seen as a five-year investment. If you surrender the policy before the term is up you may not get back all your initial investment. Minimum investment is £5,000. "This bond has a strange concept," says Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, financial advisers. "It is tempting savers with an investors' product. The guaranteed return is not any better than you would get in a building society. So, like it or not, you are relying on the stock market to do well and give you better returns. And if you believe the stock market is going to go up, then why not invest in it directly?"

The appeal of the Rose Bond would be its guarantee that the initial investment is safe. But, says Mark Bolland, you have to pay for that security. Marks out of ten? "I can see the appeal of the guarantee but I can't get excited about it. So five out of ten."

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Tessa cash tempts the trust managers

Caroline Merrell looks at the new investment trust products

THE IMAGE BANK

Splashing out: Fund managers hope to surf the crest of the £21 billion Tessa payout wave

Over the next few weeks some of the UK's biggest fund managers are planning to test the water and launch investment trusts which they hope will have them surfing the crest of the estimated £21 billion Tessa pay-out. Among them are Perpetual, M&G and Flemings, while Schroders is launching a Pep based on its Schroder Growth investment trust.

As well as trying to attract money from maturing Tessas, the investment houses are hoping to ride the crest of the continuing rise in the UK stock market. Over the last year, the market rose by about 19 per cent. Some believe this bull market will continue this year.

Perpetual will begin to offer its trust to the public on February 20. It is one of the UK's biggest fund managers, and has collected nearly every possible performance accolade over last few years. Many of its unit trusts have continually outperformed their respective indices, as well as the more average trusts.

The new income and growth investment trust, structured to take up to £1 billion, will be managed by Neil Woodford, who manages Perpetual's high-income unit trust and its income unit trust. Its high-income unit trust has risen 243 per cent since its 1988 launch, comfortably outstripping the rise in the FTA all-share index and the sector average. Its income fund has risen 138 per cent over the past five years, again much higher than the index and market average.

Perpetual's investment trust is being launched at the same time as an equivalent trust from its arch-rival M&G. Both trusts will aim to achieve a high yield — 4.4 per cent in M&G's case and 4 per cent in Perpetual's case. Both trusts are peppable, offer savings plans and are capped at £1 billion. But charging structures contrast dramatically. M&G's fund will carry no initial charge, nor will it carry an exit charge. Anyone buying shares in the trust will only have to pay an annual management charge of 1.25 per cent plus VAT. It is set for launch in February. Perpetual's fund will carry a an initial charge of around 4.5 per cent, while its annual management charge will be 0.75 per cent.

Flemings is putting the finishing touches to an investment trust aimed at paying income of 9.6 per cent. Daniel Godfrey, Flemings director said: "This level of income cannot be attained without some cost to capital growth."

Schroders will offer a Pep linked to its UK growth investment trust. This fund has risen by about 18 per cent since launch in March last year. That Pep will be available between February 6 and 29.

John Spiers, managing director of Best Investment, said: "We have no problem with recommending Perpetual as a company. That being said we are a little bit sceptical about the fact about the possible £1 billion size of the fund. Shares in the similar-sized European privatisation fund from Kleinwort Benson are now trading at a discount."

He also questions the use of an investment trust for those who buy Peps every year. Anyone who does this will have a portfolio which is heavily geared towards the UK. He said: "If at some point in the future you want to rebalance your portfolio, it is much harder and more expensive to switch around your investments if you have an investment trust." He would not be recommending Perpetual's trust because the current levels of the UK stockmarket meant there was better value to be had by investing elsewhere.

Graham Hooper, Chase de Vere investment director, said: "The charges on the Perpetual Pep are average, but I'm a great admirer of the abilities of Neil Woodford."

He added that the sheer size of money Mr Woodford had to manage could impede the trust's performance. He also believes the 4.4 per cent yield target set by M&G could be quite hard to achieve in the current market conditions.

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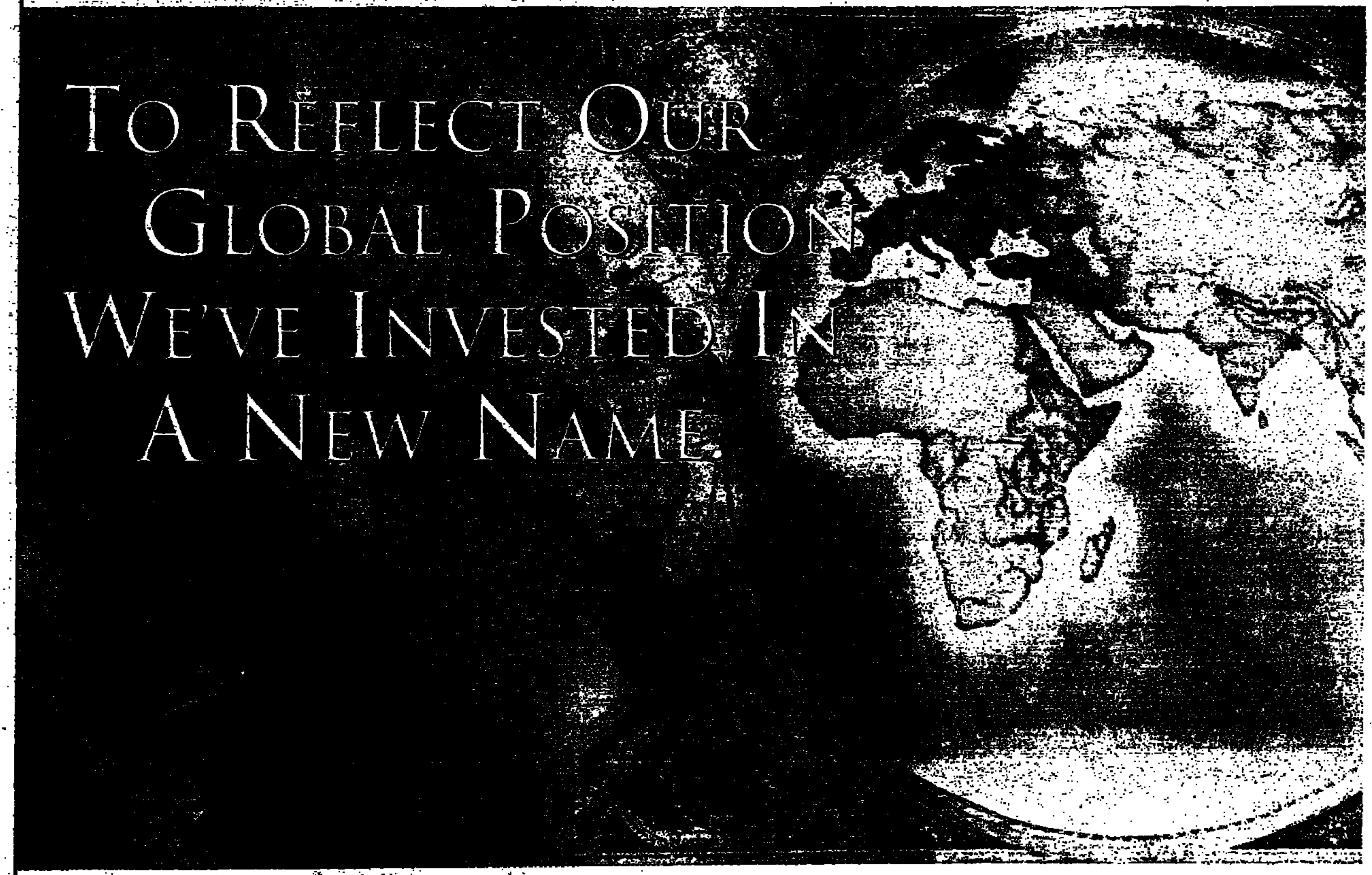

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WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE

Marianne Curphey assesses value in health plans

BILL SANDERSON

More than six million people buy private medical insurance every year, but many are unaware of just what their policy covers them for.

Few have the time or the facilities to compare the vast array of plans on the market to find the one that suits them best, and some may have been persuaded to transfer policies by a sales agent keen to maximise commission.

So how can you tell if your medical insurance is good value? Within the next few months the Office of Fair Trading is to make public its investigation into this burgeoning, unregulated industry. The report is expected to criticise the obscure clauses and exclusions in policies which leave consumers with a great deal less cover than they imagined. It is also expected to rule on mis-selling, and in particular the practice of "churning" — where a sales agent advises a policy holder to switch to a different insurer in order to generate further commission.

This could be particularly bad news for someone undergoing treatment when the policy is changed as many insurers will not pay for treating a medical condition either known or suspected before the policy was taken out.

Well over half of all medical insurance is sold direct by sales agents or through advertising, and since health insurance premiums in the UK are now worth about £1.5 billion annually, and sales commission is typically 10 per cent of the yearly premium, agents can make a lot of money from selling such products.

An estimated 11 per cent of the population has paid for cover, but as the percentage of elderly people in the population rises by an estimated 50 per cent within the next 35 years, demand will grow.

Legal & General, the life, pensions and investments house, this week launched its £10 million Lifetime Healthcare Plan.

Which? the magazine of the Consumer's Association, gives warning that private medical insurance is still "a luxury purchase", and says free medical treatment is available on the NHS, though you may have to wait for it. Figures from the Department of Health for the number of people on NHS waiting lists vary according to region and health authority. For the three months to September 1995, the last period for which figures are available, the greatest number of people waiting was 11,233 in the North Thames region, while the North West claimed to have no waiting list and in the West Midlands the figure was 1,652.

For top-of-the-range cover, *Which?* recommends Norwich Union's Premier Care which it describes as extensive but "expensive", and Prime Health's Primecare Plus which is cheaper but has more exclusions.

The best standard policies, giving good cover with lower premiums, include NPS Healthy Options and MFIA OHRA Healthcare Plan. Dr Penny O'Nions, who trained as a doctor and now is a specialist adviser on medical insurance based in Amersham, says although the L&G premiums are low — starting at £20.68 for a couple under 24 — the policy could only be used as basic cover. Claims have to be pre-authorised and all dental treatment is subject to an excess of £25.

She recommends PPP's general plan which she says "offers excellent cover but is expensive". For an extra £35 she recommends PPP's Woman's Plan which covers infertility treatment, up to £1,000 maternity benefits and breast cancer treatment.

Ohra, a Dutch company, and Prime Health, offer a wide range of benefits for a relatively low premium, she says.

Barbara Butterworth, of King Street Financial Services, Manchester says Bupa, Prime Health and Johnson Fry (of London) are worth considering.

For the over-50s Prime Health, part of Standard Life, is good value."

Private medical insurance only pays for acute conditions that can be cured by an operation or short-term course of treatment, not emergency treatment, long-term or incurable illnesses.

Medical plans for the over-60s cover the 60 to 75 age range and offer basic-rate tax relief on premiums. Few insurers will welcome you as a first-time customer over 75, though your existing insurer might quote you a personal rate. The ones that do include Cumbria-based UAP (formerly Provincial), which allows you to join up to the age of 79 and Norwich Union, which charges a single person over 75 a monthly fee of £84.85 for the most basic cover.

Policies are either underwritten — these will require you to give your full medical history and the insurer may exclude some treatments — or they contain a moratorium clause. In the case of the latter, do not need to disclose your medical history, but all pre-existing conditions are excluded for an average two years.

No-claims discounts of up to 50 per cent are available on some policies and not all policies cover the cost of maternity care. Even then, the cash benefit is usually for expenses after live births only.

Which? says there is usually no financial benefit in taking out PMI when young, because premiums rise with age, regardless of when you joined.

Six-week plans pay out only if the waiting time for NHS treatment is longer than six weeks. The cost of initial consultation and diagnosis may also be excluded.

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Source: Which?

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Date of Birth ____________

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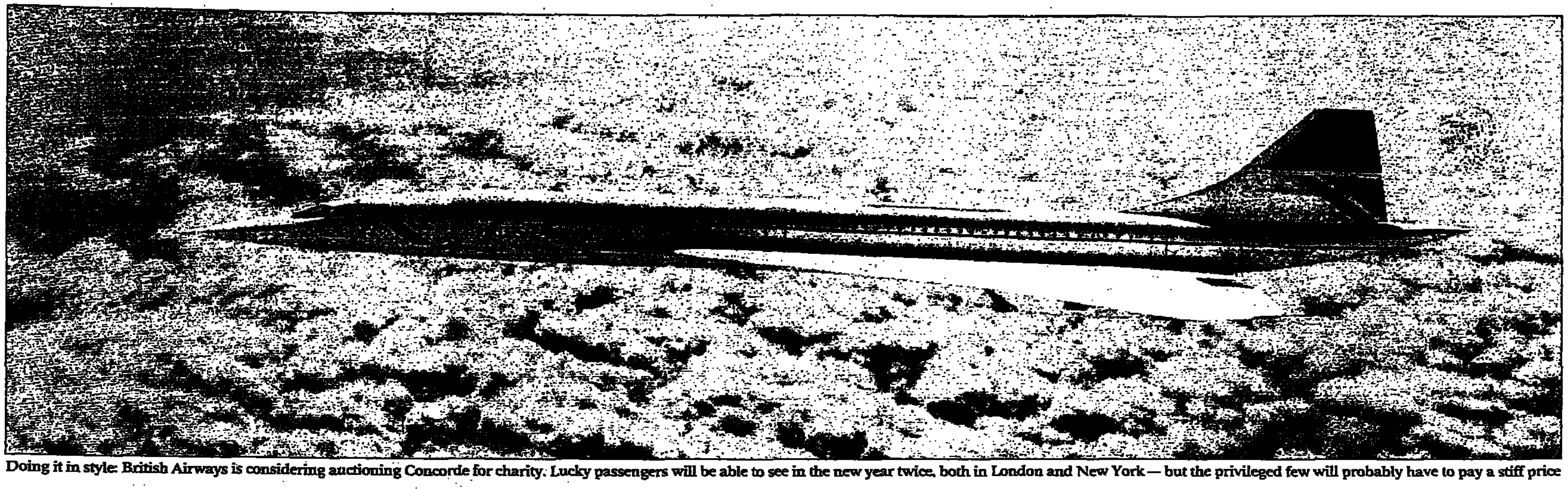
هكذا من الأصل

Morag Preston seeks financial advice on saving for the big one

Paying for the party of the millennium



Doing it in style: British Airways is considering auctioning Concorde for charity. Lucky passengers will be able to see in the new year twice, both in London and New York — but the privileged few will probably have to pay a stiff price

Not to be outdone by Virginia Bottomely and the Millennium Commission, far-sighted party organisers are laying their own foundations for New Year's Eve 1999.

The Albert Hall has been booked since 1975, the Savoy has enough bookings to fill it twice over, and revellers are already beginning to stake their place in Claridge's. Madame Tussaud's and the *QE2* are taken, and an order for 5,000 bottles of vintage champagne has fuelled rumours that stocks could run out.

After a rush of interest, British Airways is considering auctioning Concorde for charity. Lucky passengers will be able to see in the new year twice, both in London and New York, but chartering the moveable feast does not come cheap at £5,600 per seat for the return journey.

Intent on making a profit, people are even reserving venues to sell on to the highest bidder at the last minute, while others plan to sell tickets to private parties at unique sites. William Deakin, director of Juliana's party designers, expects to take £500 a head for millennium parties. "If you want the best location, you need to book now," he says.

But securing the best venue is only half the problem. First, there is the consideration of cost. June Torrano, 59, from Portsmouth, Wrote to Weekend Money in search of a savings scheme to make New Year's Eve 1999 a memorable event for her and 49 friends. She says: "We don't want to end up sitting in front of the television at home. I thought if we start saving now, we could look forward to a party in a London hotel and maybe even spend the night."

Friends and family of Mrs Torrano have agreed to pay £10 a month each into a savings scheme. "People will be coming from all over. We're going to put forward ideas, then put it to the vote," she says. "We need a flexible scheme in case anyone has to drop out. And I don't want to the problem of collecting in the money."

To help them celebrate in style, Weekend Money asked financial advisers where to invest £500 a month.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, Barclays:
"For like-minded people, who don't know much about investment and only want to put in a small amount of money, they should set up two or three investment clubs. They have every opportunity to make quite a lot of money from smaller companies associated with the millennium — anything from fizzy drinks to high-tech growth. They should set up a standing order with a bank account, and buy shares in the name of the club. Shares are easily tradeable, and people have a knowlege of which supermarkets are doing well without going to an advisory service. Interest will accumulate as dividends are paid into their account, which will allow them to buy more shares."

Fine wines and champagne will be very much in demand — buy now

Mark Bolland, Chamberlain De Broe:
"They should appoint four trustees and set up an absolute trust, making it clear that anyone who leaves will receive one fiftieth of the trust assets at that time. They should put £300 into a broadly spread investment trust savings scheme, like Foreign & Colonial, and start coming out of it after two or three years. The balance should be kept in a bank or building society that accepts trust money, and one that is likely to be taken over. If interest rates start going up, they could buy a zero dividend preference share, like the City of Oxford Preference Share, which will pay out just before December 1999."

Philippa Gee, Gee & Co:
"The Alliance & Leicester offers a Prime Deposit account for clubs with a current interest rate of 3.4 per cent gross on a deposit of £500. Standing orders are allowed into the account, so this could be used as a low risk investment. Up to three signatures would be allowed with the account, registered in the name of the club.

"Fine wines and champagne will be very much in demand for the millennium. Buy cases now, and sell them nearer the time to wine merchants or take them to an auction. This offers the possibility of growth, while allowing part of the investment to be retained for the club's own party. Consider this for initial investment only, and set up a club nominee account with a stockbroker for trading shares, like Sharelink. An initial investment is usually required followed by a typical monthly investment of £20-£30 per month. Investment clubs are restricted to groups of 20, otherwise they must set up as a limited company with all the costs and responsibilities this would incur."

Brian Connell, Grant Thornton:
"As protection of capital is important, I recommend remaining in cash. The equity market could achieve better results, but success cannot be guaranteed. Establish a bank or building society account with participants contributing monthly by standing order. Generally, club accounts attract lower interest rates. The Halifax Treasurer's account pays 4.3 and 4.85 per cent per annum gross. A cheque account may be useful to meet stage payments, but rates may be lower. You also need to check transaction charges. Robert Fleming/Save & Prosper pays 4.67 per cent on its corporate account with more than £5,000. Should there be a solicitor or an accountant among the guests, they may be persuaded to use their firm's Client account. Bristol & West client's account pays 5.937 per cent gross annually."

John Eaton, Lupton Fawcett:
"Look at a collective investment vehicle, such as a unit or investment trust. They offer flexibilty of contributions, with no pre-determined investment period, and an equity base for future potential growth. They give professional management, a wide spread of investments, and almost immediate access. A regular investment of £500 per month would give pound-cost averaging, smoothing out stock market fluctuations."

MIKE WALKER

Mrs June Torrano, with grandchildren Lucy and Andrew, started the ball rolling with a request to Weekend Money

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Barclays boosts overdraft benefits

Barclays is revitalising the way it provides its personal customers with overdrafts. Once a current account holder has agreed his overdraft limit with Barclays, overdrafts will be available on an on-going basis without an expiry date, similar to credit card limits. Existing customers will automatically benefit from the change as their overdraft will no longer need to be renewed. This new permanent limit follows recent improvements to Barclays' current account service, which include the two-day fee-free period for customers accidentally overdrawn.

■ Thousands of people are logging on to the Internet each month and many are using it to buy and sell shares. But according to Redmayne-Bentley, the solicitor, the Internet's potential for the active investor lies in the provision of readily accessible information, rather than on-line dealing, which still has many practical and security concerns. The firm of solicitors is offering a wide range of services over the Internet including market comment, advisory investment services and Execution Only-PLUS, which enables those on-line to discuss investment ideas with qualified professionals before taking decisions. Redmayne's Internet address is 'http://www.redmayne.co.uk/redmayne/'. Details: 0113 2436941.

■ After the Bank of England's base rate reduction, the interest rate on the base-rate linked credit card issued by Flemings/Save & Prosper, the investment company, has fallen to 0.94 per cent per month from 0.96 per cent per month. This means that only £118.40 will now be charged when borrowing £1,000 for a year, a difference of over £100 per annum compared with both Midland Access and NatWest Visa rates, which will cost a customer £220.43 and £231.87 respectively. For further details, call Flemings/Save & Prosper on 0800 829400.

■ A guide to the Enterprise Investment Scheme has been published by Matrix Securities. It outlines the background to the EIS, summarises current rules and explains the principal tax reliefs available. Copies *EIS Made Simple* available free from Matrix Securities Ltd, Gossard House, 7-8 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF.

LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers BS 0800 378669	Bullion Share	Instant	£500	5.70	½Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Savings	Postal	£5,000	5.75	Yly
Manchester BS 0161 839 5545	Money by Mail	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9481444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.10	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Allied Trust Bank 0171 626 0879		5 year	£9,000	7.50	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.25	F/Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Yly

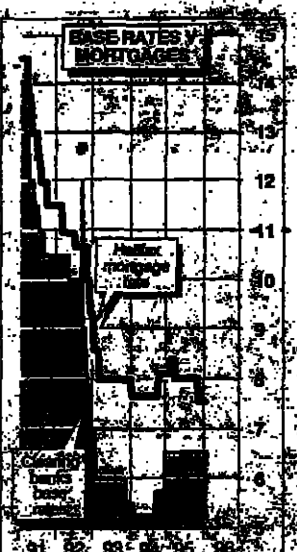
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.96%G	12.10%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	Mastercard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

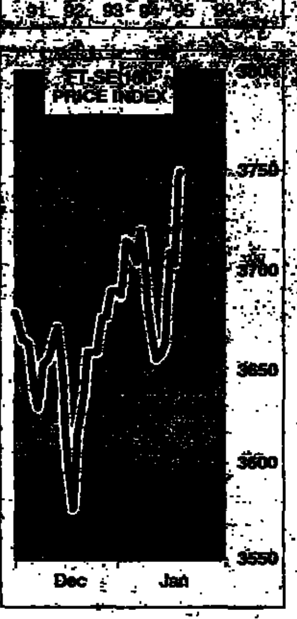
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.9%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Abbey National 0345 545556	15.50%	£115.18	£103.26

No. A = Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





	Gross rate	Net rates 25%	Net rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c†	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* •	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* •	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-250,000	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond•	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Certf‡	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362636
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond•	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†‡	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensrs Bond S2•	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-50,000	60day	01253766151

*First £70 (£140) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ‡Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years §3.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ¶£40,000 in addition to S1 holdings •Taxable but cred in full **Tiered rates over £500*

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,129	£11,152	£12,528
Canada Life..........Level	£9,915	£11,087	£12,675
Standard Life ....Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Sun Life of Canada Level	£9,972	£11,016	£12,442
Royal Life ....Level	£9,851	£10,967	£12,527

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,371	£10,109	£11,191
Sun Life of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Royal Life ....Level	£9,119	£9,957	£11,189
Canada Life ....Level	£9,083	£9,927	£11,161
Generali ....Level	£9,024	£9,875	£11,053

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£8,980	£9,554	£10,358
Sun Life of Canada Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Canada Life ....Level	£8,866	£9,329	£10,266
MGM Assurance ..Level	£8,678	£9,303	£10,190
Royal Life ....Level	£8,658	£9,302	£10,221

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at January 17, 1996

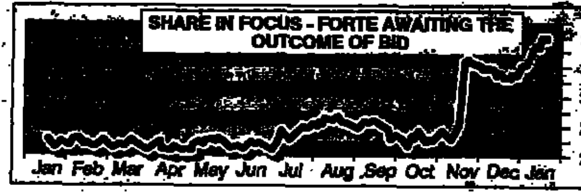
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.95
	10,000	AIG Life	5.05
	20,000	AIG Life	5.15
	50,000	AIG Life	5.30
2 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.18
	10,000	AIG Life	5.28
	20,000	AIG Life	5.43
	50,000	AIG Life	5.58
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.90
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.20
	20,000	Financial Assur	5.30
	50,000	Financial Assur	5.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.40
	20,000	Financial Assur	5.50
	50,000	Financial Assur	5.60
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.51
	10,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.61
	50,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.71

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	102.03	9.179	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	123.47	9.403	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	138.23	9.382	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	143.02	9.329	100.84	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	138.02	9.400	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	127.22	9.598	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	118.47	9.908	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	96.31	9.089	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	129.38	9.046	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	149.38	9.092	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	142.06	9.395	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	119.27	8.997	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	139.57	9.032	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	137.80	9.141	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	137.78	9.325	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.3.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.59	neg	95	6% disc for 1yr, 2% disc 18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 000929	3.74	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 1 year
Nat Westminster 0121 234 2000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% disc 12mth Var rate-31.3.99

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Northern Rock 0800 591500	1.19	£100k	90	6.25% discount until 1.3.97
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00% disc 6 mth 3% disc 6 mth
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no limit	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	2.50	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 12 months
Skipton 0800 446776	1.49	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths, 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00% disc 6 mths 3.00% 6 mths
TSB 0121 600 6147	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	522.70	553.20	+ 7.80	...
UK Equity	662.70	701.30	+14.10	...
Property	514.20	544.20	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Interest	363.60	384.80	+ 4.70	...
Money	261.40	276.70	+ 0.20	...
International	445.60	471.60	+ 3.90	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	248.50	261.60	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	489.30	515.10	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fd Inc	199.60	210.20	+ 5.00	...
-do- Acc	273.80	288.30	+ 6.80	...
Selective Fd	531.00	559.00	+ 6.90	...
Money Fd	396.00	416.90	+ 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	373.50	393.20	+ 0.50	...
Equity Ser 4	253.30	266.70	+ 4.80	...
Man Ser 4	743.00	782.20	+12.80	...
Conv Ser 4	342.70	360.80	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	342.30	360.40	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	379.20	399.20	+ 2.30	...
American Ser 4	574.40	604.70	+14.40	...
High Inc Ser 4	769.50	810.00	+12.30	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	226.30	238.30	+ 1.80	...
Japan Ser 4	369.50	389.00	+ 5.30	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1746.00	1837.90	-22.30	...
European Fd Acc	412.20	433.80	+ 2.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	559.50	588.90	+ 6.10	...
Gtd Money Acc	349.10	367.50	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	675.20	710.70	+ 7.70	...
Its Fxd Int Acc	368.20	387.50	+ 5.80	...
Japan Fund	274.60	289.00	- 2.90	...
N American Acc	372.50	392.00	+ 7.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	453.90	477.80	+ 0.60	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1146.50	1206.80	+14.40	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	390.10	410.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1611.60	1696.50	+25.40	...
Property Acc	610.10	642.30	+ 0.70	...
Far East Acc	341.70	359.70	+ 7.10	...
Managed Capital	588.90	619.90	+ 8.30	...
-do- Acc	1236.10	1301.20	+17.90	...
Overseas Acc	1070.50	1126.90	+20.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	538.50	567.90	+ 5.60	...
Amer Equity Acc	981.10	1032.80	+30.80	...
Amer Man Acc	409.90	431.50	+12.40	...
Amer Prop Acc	118.80	125.10	+ 2.20	...
Distribution Bonds	25.20	26.60	+ 0.30	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	172.90	181.90	+ 1.10	...
Balanced Ser 6	806.70	849.10	+ 9.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	184.50	194.20	+ 3.00	...
Distribution Ser 6	106.10	111.60	+ 1.30	6.09
UK Equities Ser 6	1131.20	1190.70	+17.50	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1189.20	1251.70	+17.40	...
North Amer Ser 6	540.60	569.00	+ 8.20	...
Far East Ser 6	619.80	652.40	+13.80	...
Europe Ser 6	438.40	461.40	+ 3.20	...
Intnl Ser 6	630.20	664.40	+12.30	...
Property Ser 6	575.30	605.50	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	487.00	512.60	+ 3.10	...
Ind-Lnkd Ser 86	193.90	204.10	+ 1.50	...
Gterd Dep Ser 6	311.10	327.40	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	969.10	1020.20	+14.60	...
-do- Initial	616.30	648.80	+10.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	430.10	451.70	+ 5.90	...
-do- Initial	275.30	289.80	+ 3.80	...
International Acc	447.10	470.70	+ 7.20	...
-do- Initial	285.00	300.10	+ 4.70	...
Managed Acc	591.30	622.50	+ 9.00	...
-do- Initial	378.20	398.20	+ 5.80	...
Money Acc	304.10	320.20	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	308.50	324.80	+ 0.20	...
-do- Initial	196.10	206.50	...	...
America Acc	341.60	359.60	+ 8.40	...
Australia Acc	236.60	249.10	+ 2.50	...
Financial Acc	421.30	443.50	+ 9.60	...
Sml Accum	488.60	514.40	+ 5.60	...
Japan Genl Acc	321.80	338.80	+ 6.00	...
Income Acc	586.80	617.70	+11.00	...
Leisure Acc	290.60	305.90	+ 4.60	...
Special Sits Acc	282.10	297.00	+ 5.00	...
Univ Tech Acc	179.10	188.60	+ 3.20	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	904.71	904.71	+13.45	...
Income Fund	850.33	895.08	+13.91	...
Extra Income	773.06	813.75	+ 9.50	...
Worldwide Gth	545.26	573.96	+ 7.44	...
Balanced Fund	750.55	790.06	+12.20	...
Smllr Cos Recov	885.26	931.86	+ 4.91	...
N Amer & Genrl	423.91	446.23	+ 4.97	...
Pacific Basin	458.65	482.79	+ 6.71	...
German Growth	295.89	[illegible]	- 0.82	...
Japan Growth	199.28	209.77	+ 0.37	...
The UK Gth Fd	260.06	273.68	+ 3.33	...
Contl Euro Gth	153.19	161.26	+ 1.58	...
Property Fund	410.44	432.05	- 0.85	...
Fixed Interest	351.22	369.71	+ 5.76	...
Cash Fund	295.59	310.94	+ 0.25	...
Managed Inv	544.16	572.80	+ 8.43	...
Nth Amer Recov	282.72	297.60	+ 5.18	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	530.89	558.84	+ 2.73	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888000				
Measured Perf	180.30	190.70	+ 3.60	...
Performance Plus	190.93	201.50	+ 2.40	...
With Profit Perf	179.30	189.90	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	212.30	224.60	+ 3.10	...
Euro Opportunity	236.40	250.10	+ 5.40	...
North Amer Opp	192.50	203.70	+ 3.10	...
Far East Opp	215.50	228.00	+ 4.70	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	159.50	167.80	...	...
Gilt Prop Ser 2	195.90	207.30	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int	215.00	227.50	+ 2.80	...
Cash	164.30	173.80	...	6.49
Overseas	219.50	232.30	+ 2.80	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	386.80	406.20	+ 7.60	...
UK Equity	647.30	681.40	+ 4.20	...
Property	265.90	279.80	+ 0.30	...
Money Market	262.80	276.70	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	323.90	341.00	+ 5.70	...
Japan	377.50	397.40	+ 5.10	...
North America	179.20	188.70	+ 5.40	...
International	350.50	369.00	+ 4.60	...
European	308.70	325.00	+ 7.30	...
Far East	154.30	162.50	+ 3.70	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	372.40	392.00	+ 5.20	...
Property	248.10	261.20	...	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	265.10	279.10	+ 4.30	...
Equity	422.60	444.90	+ 6.70	...
Cash	224.60	236.50	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	429.60	452.30	+ 4.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	399.60	420.70	+ 5.40	...
Managed Fund	804.70	847.00	+12.00	...
Property Fund	517.20	544.40	- 0.10	...
Equity Fund	1066.30	1122.40	+19.70	...
Gilt Edged Fd	678.70	714.40	+ 8.00	...
Deposit Fund	346.90	365.20	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	454.00	478.50	+ 3.90	...
International	614.90	647.30	+12.00	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU [illegible]				
Property Fund	161.40	172.00	...	...
Managed Fund	711.90	749.40	+16.40	...
Equity Fund	414.00	435.80	+10.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	326.60	343.80	+ 5.20	...
Ruby	193.80	204.10	+ 3.60	...
Emerald	156.20	164.50	+ 1.30	...
Equity	378.00	397.90	+ 7.30	...
Property	232.30	244.60	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	225.20	237.10	+ 2.90	...
Indexed Secs	181.00	190.60	+ 1.50	...
Cash	196.20	206.60	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	277.40	292.10	+ 5.70	...
Far East	361.40	380.50	+ 7.30	...
International	273.50	287.90	+ 4.10	...
Special Sits	393.80	414.60	+ 3.90	...
Intl Income	338.60	356.20	+ 5.00	...
American Inc	232.20	244.50	+ 5.40	...
European	374.90	394.70	+ 3.90	...
Japanese	145.30	153.00	+ 1.40	...
SE Asia	404.60	425.90	+ 7.90	...
With Profits Reg	176.70	186.10	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	176.70	186.10	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	376.90	396.80	+ 7.00	...
Equity	458.60	482.80	+10.80	...
Property	213.40	224.70	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	286.80	302.00	+ 4.10	...
Index Linked	191.80	201.90	+ 1.70	...
Cash	266.00	280.00	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	346.20	364.50	+ 8.40	...
Far East Acc	343.30	361.40	+ 6.90	...
International Acc	347.10	365.40	+ 6.10	...
Special Sits	585.20	616.00	+ 6.50	...
European Flex	530.20	558.20	+ 6.00	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Unitd): Key ‡	233.18	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	345.62	...	...	...
-do- Cash	211.53	222.66	+ 0.14	...
-do- Equity	609.80	641.89	+ 8.55	...
-do- Fxd Int	397.63	418.56	+ 4.82	...
-do- Managed	438.14	461.20	+ 6.44	...
-do- Property	289.00	304.21	+ 1.64	...
(Frmly): Cash Cap	212.21	223.39	+ 0.09	...
-do- Cash Inv	323.14	340.15	+ 0.37	...
-do- Equity Cap	[illegible]	[illegible]	+13.17	...
-do- Equity Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	+52.20	...
-do- Fixed Cap	428.20	450.75	+ 4.81	...
-do- Fixed Inv	652.00	686.35	+ 7.27	...
-do- Index Cap	210.81	221.94	+ 1.39	...
-do- Index Inv	321.04	337.94	+ 3.10	...
-do- Mngd Cap	646.51	680.55	+13.46	...
-do- Mngd Inv	984.44	[illegible]	+21.17	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	816.12	...	+ 1.18	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	101.44	...	- 0.05	...
Prime: Managed	451.10	474.90	+ 8.20	...
Prime: UK Equity	554.00	583.20	+ 9.90	...
Prime: Int Equity	331.70	349.20	+ 6.00	...
Prime: Property	255.90	269.40	+ 0.30	...
Prime: Fxd Int	255.40	268.90	+ 2.00	...
Prime Index-Lnk	182.30	191.90	+ 1.00	...
Prime: Cash	214.00	225.30	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744000				
Managed Fund	1229.70	1294.40	+10.80	...
Equity II	1780.00	1873.60	+20.70	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)	103.00	103.00	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	102.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	107.20	...	+ 1.80	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	106.30	...	+ 0.90	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	106.10	...	+ 1.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (3) ‡	102.40	...	+ 0.10	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	100.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	100.90	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	102.50	...	+ 2.00	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	102.70	...	+ 2.10	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	103.30	...	+ 2.10	...
Bristol & West (3) ‡	100.40	...	+ 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	307.90	319	+ 6.00	2.87
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	342.20	360.30	+ 4.00	...
UK Equity	459.10	483.30	+ 6.40	...
Stewardship	397.70	418.70	+ 1.50	...
Overseas Equity	321.30	338.30	+ 3.40	...
North American	173.40	182.60	+ 2.10	...
Pacific Basin	180.50	190.00	+ 1.80	...
European	263.20	277.10	+ 1.90	...
Property	183.60	193.30	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	261.40	275.20	+ 2.40	...
Index Linked	180.00	189.50	+ 0.70	...
Cash	209.60	220.70	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	596.30	627.60	+ 9.10	...
Managed	766.30	806.70	+12.00	...
Deposit	356.70	375.40	+ 0.30	...
Property	479.40	504.60	+ 0.50	...
American	492.50	518.40	+10.80	...
Australian	585.80	616.60	+ 6.20	...
European	640.90	674.60	+ 8.30	...
Income Acc	837.20	881.20	+14.30	...
-do- Dist	479.40	504.60	+10.90	5.05
International	349.50	367.80	+ 6.10	...
Japan Smaller	469.80	494.50	+ 5.40	...
Singapore & Mal	447.20	470.70	+25.30	...
Smaller Cos	459.40	483.50	+11.70	...
Tokyo Fund	687.60	723.70	+26.00	...
UK Equity	644.40	678.30	+11.10	...
CCM Mngd Mg	843.40	887.70	+13.70	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Pldn Far East	345.20	363.40	+ 5.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	531.30	559.30	+11.30	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	766.10	766.10	+ 8.30	...
-do- Inv A	766.00	806.40	+ 8.70	...
UK Equity	461.60	486.00	+ 5.30	...
Gilt Plus	220.70	232.40	+ 2.00	...
Managed	343.20	361.40	+ 4.00	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	236.00	248.30	+ 3.40	...
Unitised Profit	147.90	155.70	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	328.00	345.10	+ 5.10	...
Fixed Int	214.00	225.20	+ 2.90	...
Index-Linked	177.40	186.70	+ 1.70	...
Cash Deposit	181.50	190.90	+ 0.10	...
Property	181.30	190.80	+ 0.20	...
International	192.30	202.40	+ 2.90	...
American	196.30	206.50	+ 3.00	...
Japan	249.00	262.00	+ 5.10	...
Japan Smllr Cos	255.00	268.30	+ 5.20	...
European	203.90	214.50	+ 1.60	...
Pacific Fund	314.50	330.90	+ 6.30	...
Clerr Life	142.30	149.70	+ 2.00	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	539.60	568.00	+ 7.50	...
Managed Initial	350.80	369.30	+ 4.70	...
Equity Ord	834.10	878.00	+11.60	...
Equity Init	542.30	570.80	+ 7.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	215.50	226.80	+ 1.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.30	154.00	+ 1.20	...
Overs Equity Ord	430.30	452.90	+ 7.00	...
Overs Equity Init	279.80	294.50	+ 4.50	...
Property Ord	277.90	292.50	+ 0.20	...
Property Init	180.70	190.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	311.20	327.60	+ 3.30	...
Fixed Int Init	202.30	212.90	+ 1.80	...
Deposit Ord	215.90	227.30	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Initial	140.40	147.80	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	830.50	865.10	...	...
Managed Initial	518.10	545.30	+ 9.20	...
-do- Acc	757.20	797.10	+14.70	...
Equity Initial	790.60	832.20	+15.70	...
-do- Acc	1156.30	1217.20	+23.00	...
Fixed Int Initial	477.90	503.10	+ 6.30	...
-do- Acc	699.00	735.80	+ 9.60	...
Intl Initial	509.70	536.50	+ 9.70	...
-do- Acc	745.30	784.70	+14.50	...
Nth Amer Initial	223.00	234.70	+ 7.60	...
-do- Acc	296.80	312.40	+10.20	...
Pacific Initial	253.90	267.20	+ 4.70	...
-do- Acc	334.80	352.40	+ 6.30	...
Property Initial	177.80	187.20	...	...
-do- Acc	259.80	273.40	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	168.30	177.10	+ 1.60	...
-do- Acc	224.00	235.80	+ 2.30	...
Deposit Initial	201.50	212.10	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	294.70	310.20	+ 0.30	...
Euro Initial	118.80	125.00	+ 1.50	...
-do- Acc	146.10	153.80	+ 1.90	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 258, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	28.09	29.57	+ 0.26	...
Balanced	28.75	30.25	+ 0.41	...
Opportunity	29.21	30.75	+ 0.36	...
Deposit	24.65	25.95	+ 0.03	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	29.81	[illegible]	+ 0.28	...
Balanced	29.27	30.76	+ 0.49	...
Opportunity	29.81	31.37	+ 0.44	...
Deposit	25.02	26.33	+ 0.04	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Hambro House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 [illegible]				
Managed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
-do- Pens	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
UK Equity	197.60	207.90	+ 3.00	...
-do- Pens	232.90	245.20	+ 4.60	...
International	165.90	174.20	+ 1.70	...
-do- Pens	183.30	192.40	+ 2.90	...
Deposit	145.00	152.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	174.20	183.30	+ 0.10	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	392.10	417.20	+ 5.50	...
North America	424.40	451.50	+ 7.30	...
Far East Fund	629.80	670.00	+12.20	...
Global Managed	523.60	557.10	+ 7.80	...
Deposit Fund	238.80	251.40	...	...
Prime Residential	136.20	143.40	- 0.20	...
European Fund	299.50	318.70	+ 3.60	...
Fixed Interest	69.00	73.40	+ 1.10	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	590.60	625.00	+ 2.50	...
British Fund	613.50	649.30	+ 9.30	...
International	622.80	659.10	+11.00	...
Dollar Fund	477.30	505.10	+12.20	...
Capital Fund	556.20	588.60	+ 4.30	...
Income Fund	791.60	837.70	+15.40	...
Property Series A	468.30	495.60	...	4.50
Property Units	774.70	813.50	...	...
Financial Fund	708.00	749.30	+17.30	...
Managed Ser A	616.00	651.90	+ 9.40	...
Managed Units	1107.10	1165.40	+16.90	...
High Yield Fund	717.00	759.70	+12.80	...
Money Series A	301.80	319.40	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	401.70	422.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	708.30	749.60	+12.00	...
Fixed Interest	402.50	426.00	+ 3.90	...
Indexed Secs	201.10	212.90	+ 2.10	...
European Fund	854.90	904.70	+14.30	...
Natural Res	337.50	357.20	+ 3.20	...
Far East Fund	715.60	757.30	+11.00	...
Smaller Cos.	551.10	583.20	+ 8.90	...
Special Sits	541.20	572.70	+ 5.20	...
Man Currency	281.10	297.50	+ 8.30	...
Japanese Tech	335.80	355.40	+ 7.30	...
US Smaller Cos	343.70	363.80	+ 5.50	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	259.50	273.30	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	57.10	61.10	+ 1.70	...
Fixed Interest	359.90	378.90	+ 4.00	...
Gold	96.60	101.90	+ 0.80	...
Managed	687.40	723.70	+10.90	...
Mngd Growth	218.90	230.50	+ 3.00	...
Mngd Opp	230.60	242.80	+ 3.00	...
Property	331.10	348.50	...	...
Residential Prop	105.90	111.20	+ 2.50	...
TSB American	246.40	259.50	+ 7.50	...
TSB Brit Gwth	993.10	1045.50	+14.30	...
TSB European	309.50	325.90	+ 5.90	...
TSB Income	432.90	455.70	+11.00	...
TSB Intl	477.60	502.80	+ 8.90	...
TSB Intl Inc	330.60	348.10	+ 6.20	...
TSB Pacific	449.80	473.60	+11.80	...
TSB Prem Inc	276.50	291.30	+ 5.20	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 [illegible]				
Global Managed	649.00	683.20	+10.10	...
Global Property	312.30	328.70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	572.20	602.30	+10.80	...
Global Equity	702.40	739.40	+12.60	...
Global Cash	228.50	238.20	+ 0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	502.40	528.80	- 1.20	...
Managed	468.30	493.10	+ 5.90	...
American	498.40	524.60	+ 9.90	...
UK Equity Fd	510.80	537.60	+ 6.30	...
Japan	224.40	236.20	+ 4.50	...
Index-Lkd	197.60	208.00	+ 1.70	...
High Yield	958.40	1008	+16.40	...
Money	421.10	443.20	+ 0.40	...
International	446.00	469.40	+ 7.00	...
Henderson Active	233.80	246.10	+ 3.70	...
Perpetual Active	368.30	387.60	+ 3.60	...
Growth Acc	730.70	769.10	+ 9.90	...
Gilt Edged	469.40	494.10	[illegible]	...
European	173.60	182.70	+ 1.50	...
Far East	232.20	244.40	[illegible]	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex [illegible] 01273 724000				
B Soc Inkd Init	134.00	141.00	...	...
-do- Acc	193.10	203.30	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Inc	162.40	171.00	+ 2.20	...
-do- Acc	208.30	219.30	+ 2.90	...
Cash Initial	169.40	178.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	301.20	317.10	+ 4.30	...
Equity Initial	738.70	777.60	+12.70	...
-do- Acc	1313.70	1382.00	[illegible]	...
Fixed Initial	368.20	387.60	+ 5.70	...
-do- Acc	654.80	689.30	[illegible]	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	139.20	146.60	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	211.30	222.50	[illegible]	...
Intl Initial	354.20	372.90	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc	620.10	652.80	[illegible]	...
Managed Initial	522.60	550.30	+ 7.70	...
-do- Acc	929.40	978.40	[illegible]	...
Property Initial	220.10	231.70	[illegible]	...
-do- Acc	391.30	412.30	[illegible]	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units ‡	1146.17	...	[illegible]	...
Property Units ‡	425.97	...	- 0.15	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	73.75	77.63	[illegible]	...
2nd Equity Acc	700.40	737.30	+ 9.70	...
2nd High Inc Ac	674.00	709.40	[illegible]	...

مكبر من الأصل

Sara McConnell finds leases cost less if you cannot trace the landlord

When absence helps

ALAN WELLER

Samantha Dukes, left, David Cleland and Sara McConnell after buying their freehold

Hundreds of despairing flat tenants who cannot trace their landlords to serve notice that they want to buy the freehold of their block have been besieging the government-funded Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service (Leas). They fear that they will be trapped in properties that are unsaleable because there is no freeholder.

But the Leas is telling them they could be in a stronger position than leaseholders with landlords intent on putting obstacles in the way of tenants wanting to exercise their right to buy the freehold and manage their own flats.

The Government was this week forced to promise amendments to existing landlord and tenant legislation in the forthcoming Housing Bill after recent revelations of growing abuse of leaseholders' rights by some landlords. But campaigners fear landlords will be able to find new ways of evading the law. By contrast, leaseholders with absentee landlords can succeed in buying their freehold relatively easily and possibly more cheaply, says the Leas.

There are two main routes, depending on circumstances:

☐ You cannot contact your landlord. Letters or cheques are returned and insurance cover is not renewed. You know his company still exists because you have checked at Companies House. He is still the listed freeholder at the Land Registry so he has not sold it to someone else. But you cannot reach him at the address you have and neither can anyone else.

Under the 1993 Leasehold Reform Act, you can approach the county court directly. As long as the court is satisfied that you have really made an effort to find your landlord and that you qualify to buy your freehold under the Act, it will allow you to buy, then ask the leasehold valuation tribunal to set a price. You have avoided lengthy battles with your landlord over your right to buy the freehold.

☐ Your landlord's company has been struck off by Companies House because it has failed to file accounts. Alternatively, the company has gone into liquidation and then been dissolved. But you can still buy the freehold. Try to find out whether your company is still registered as landlord. The Land Registry, now open to the public, will hold information on your landlord if the title is registered.

You should then contact the Treasury Solicitor, who acts on behalf of the Crown. Assets owned by dissolved companies (including freehold property) pass automatically to the Crown. The Treasury Solicitor has a duty to investigate whether there were claims against the company when it was dissolved.

Depending on the result of its investigations, the Treasury Solicitor may then be able to transfer the freehold directly to a company set up and owned by you and your fellow tenants. Officials at the Treasury Solicitor's department say they are always prepared to tell you if this is feasible. The freehold and costs are generally fairly priced to encourage a straightforward purchase.

Leas: 0171 493 3116.

Diary of a freehold purchase

1994 JAN The buildings insurance comes up for renewal on our four-flat conversion in Blackheath, South London. Normally our freeholder, a company called Alphatrend, via its managing agent Brian Nicholls of Nicholls and Co., solicitors, pays it. In 1993 it was not paid until June. This year, Alphatrend's insurance brokers cannot contact him. They ask if we would arrange the insurance and we agree. Mr Nicholls has been difficult to reach in the past year and we have no address for Alphatrend. We have not had bills for ground rent or service charges since 1992. We discover the freehold was sold to Alphatrend in 1990 without being offered to us and that Alphatrend was struck off and dissolved in July 1993. I volunteer my solicitor to find Mr Nicholls to try to buy the freehold.

1994 MAR Our solicitor discovers Alphatrend has never been registered as the freeholder at the Land Registry and has had no success in contacting Mr Nicholls. Without him we have no way of knowing where our property files are.

1994 JUL Our solicitor is made redundant but we find our files at a firm of solicitors ordered to take over Mr Nicholls' business by the Law Society. The files confirm Alphatrend's demise and the freehold transfer to Alphatrend for £1,000. Our house was an Alphatrend asset at the transfer. Though never registered at the Land Registry, our new solicitor says the transfer is almost certainly legal. The files confirm what we had already suspected — that Mr Nicholls and Alphatrend were one and the same. With Alphatrend gone, the freehold has passed to the Crown. The question is now whether the Crown will agree to sell us the freehold directly or whether we have to have Alphatrend restored to the company register so that we can pay it the ground rent we technically owe (though were never billed for) it) then serve notices on it to buy the freehold. Restoration could cost £5,000 before even starting to buy the freehold.

1994 NOV We discover we almost certainly do not need to restore Alphatrend. The Treasury Solicitor, for the Crown, tells us we may be able to buy the freehold directly. We do not have to follow procedures set out in the Leasehold and Urban Development Act 1993. Now we need the Crown to agree that it is the freeholder.

1995 FEB The Crown confirms that the freehold of our house has now passed into its possession and it is currently considering transferring the freehold to us directly.

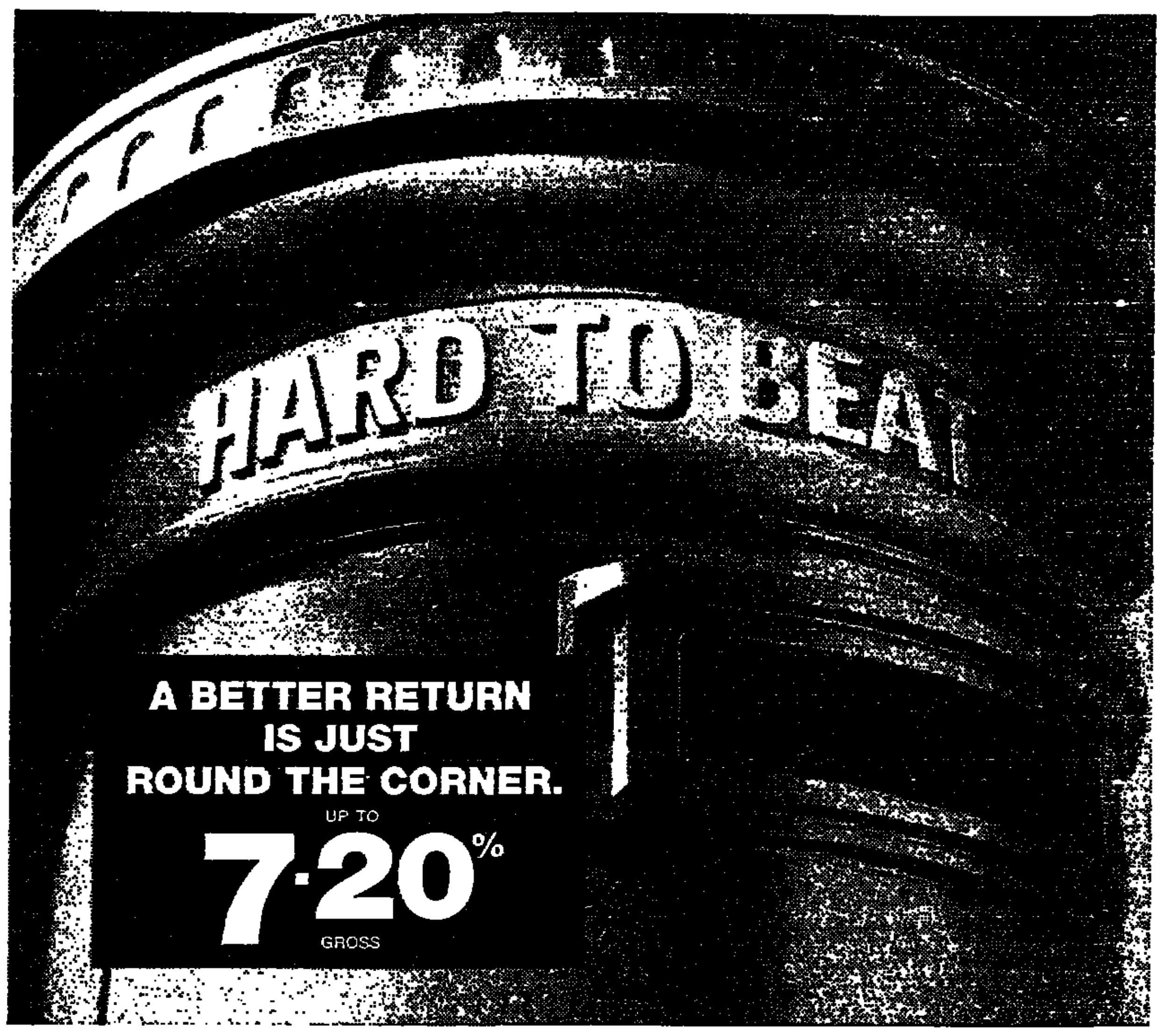
1995 MAR The Treasury Solicitor, on behalf of the Crown, offers us the freehold of our house for £4,000 (10 times the annual ground rent), plus costs of £250 plus VAT. We accept with relief. We will form our own management company with ourselves as the company's shareholders.

1995 JUL Our solicitor advises asking the Treasury Solicitor to register himself as the freeholder at the Land Registry before transferring the freehold to us. There is still a fear that Mr Nicholls could reappear and claim ownership of the freehold. Mr Nicholls's failure to register the transfer has complicated the whole process.

1995 OCT We finally receive the documents to sign transferring the freehold from the Treasury Solicitor to us. At the same time the Treasury Solicitor registers at the Land Registry as the freeholder so he can transfer ownership to us.

1995 NOV We pay over the money. The whole process including solicitors' fees and setting up a management company has cost us £1,286 each and has taken almost two years.

SARA MCCONNELL



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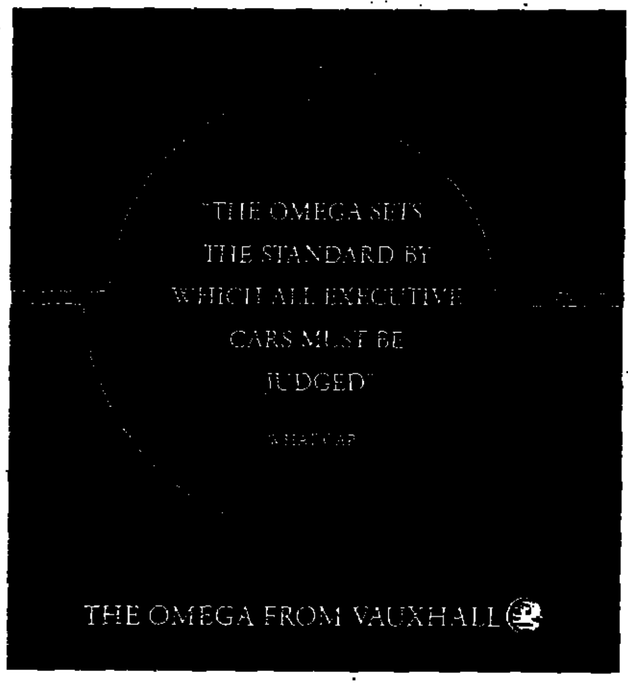
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	197.50	208.90	+ 2.80	0.42
Groland Equity	277.80	294.70	+ 6.80	1.90
Groland Euro	252.10	268.80	+ 2.50	1.18
Groland Expt Val	128.30	132.90		5.14
Groland Gilt	77.99	80.41	+ 0.98	4.74
Groland Japan	181.80	192.40	+ 2.40	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01200 553 231				
General Acc	636.30	675.90	+12.80	2.52
General Inc	545.00	580.70	+11.10	2.52
UK Growth Acc	429.20	456.70	+ 6.50	2.72
UK Growth Inc	286.00	304.30	+ 5.70	2.72
Higher Inc Acc	786.70	836.40	+14.90	4.09
Higher Inc Inc	437.40	465.40	+ 7.70	4.09
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	200.90	221.70	+ 2.20	5.50
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	98.52	101.90	+ 1.00	5.50
Nth American	330.30	351.40	+ 5.50	
Europe	332.60	353.90	+ 5.50	0.66
Brit Excell	85.75	91.23	+ 1.49	2.87
Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.20	121.50	+ 1.20	4.61
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.97	85.08	+ 0.91	4.61
Global Opps	98.23	104.50	+ 2.20	0.29
Balanced Acc	62.16	66.13	+ 1.03	2.73
Balanced Inc	59.48	63.28	+ 0.98	2.73
Japan Acc	48.41	51.51	+ 1.28	
Pac Basin Acc	412.70	439.10	+ 9.50	0.86
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	133.70	141.60†	+ 1.30	7.05
High Inc Equity	178.90	191.30†	+ 3.00	4.40
Worldwide Bond	298.00	316.00	+ 4.30	4.43
American Growth	337.40	360.70†	+10.90	0.36
Asian Pacific	342.60	368.40	+ 9.80	0.14
Assets & Earnings	293.60	312.30	+ 8.20	2.73
Euro Capital Acc	167.30	179.90	+ 2.80	0.58
Extra Inc	44.66	47.51†	+ 0.13	8.46
General	271.90	289.28	+ 5.00	2.98
Global Opps	62.36	66.34	+ 1.42	0.45
Japan	128.60	137.80	+ 2.50	
Managed Inc	48.17	51.24†	+ 0.60	4.54
Mastertrust	160.70	171.90	+ 4.10	1.45
US Emerging Cos	170.40	181.30	+ 3.00	
Ethical	76.25	81.13	+ 0.67	2.43
International	133.60	142.10	+ 3.70	0.85
Dividend & Growth	66.51	70.75†	+ 1.37	4.34
Global Gwth & Sec	71.46	76.32	+ 0.30	2.66
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2003.00	2082.00	+ 8.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	55.29	57.41	+ 0.92	0.53
Cash	50.35	50.35†	+ 0.05	5.81

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	96.08	102.47†	+ 1.49	2.53
American Portfolio	112.66	119.48	+ 2.86	0.97
European Portfolio	115.16	122.84	+ 1.32	0.47
High Income	53.10	53.71	+ 0.53	0.00
Japanese Portfolio	71.07	75.54†	+ 1.89	
Pacific Portfolio	158.80	170.76	+ 4.83	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	90.42	96.82	+ 1.65	2.90
Utility & Bond	58.25	58.92	+ 0.52	9.62
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	728.34	739.34	- 7.69	4.36
Fxd Int Sec	158.55	159.19	+ 0.75	8.50
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	728.09	739.09	+ 6.28	4.38
Investment Acc	832.47	832.98	+27.98	
Fixed Int Inc	128.61	129.73	+ 1.15	8.09
Fixed Int Acc	219.17	220.05	+ 1.95	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Bestman Intl	95.72	101.82	+ 1.44	2.94
Beck Bio-Tech	48.65	52.35†	+ 3.05	..
Apsas Ethical Tst	162.56	177.91†	+ 0.99	0.63
City Fin Assets	76.28	80.10	- 1.74	2.08
City Fin America	108.93	114.39	+ 2.90	
City Fin Intl	91.84	96.44	+ 2.45	0.85
City Fin Japan	154.83	162.59†	- 0.28	
Friars Hse Cap	298.10	320.90†	- 0.52	2.28
Friars Hse Inc	197.00	209.60	- 0.12	4.24
Buckley Wrld Eqn	135.06	143.16	- 3.88	
Fairport Cap Gth	148.04	153.73	+ 0.74	..
Fairmont Intl	157.04	165.31	+ 0.69	
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	56.38	59.20†	+ 0.89	1.59
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.18	61.71	+ 1.58	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	72.63	77.37	+ 1.21	0.02
Dragon Growth	73.36	78.45	+ 1.70	0.59
Equity High Inc	90.65	96.44	+ 1.83	3.97
-do- Accum	126.71	134.80	+ 2.55	3.97
Extra Income Inc	26.93	28.33†	+ 0.31	7.02
Extra Income Acc	28.34	29.84	+ 0.34	7.02
European Gwth	60.01	63.87	+ 0.97	1.05
Evergreen	29.85	31.82	+ 0.37	
General Equity	97.93	103.90	+ 2.09	2.82
Japan Growth	53.75	57.18	+ 0.89	
Pedigree Gwth	58.65	62.39	+ 0.87	2.58
Ped Sm Cos Inc	34.39	36.58	+ 0.41	1.53
-do- Accum	36.21	38.52	+ 0.43	1.53
Retirement Inc #	28.10	29.85	+ 0.06	5.82
Special Sits	43.97	46.78	+ 1.00	2.09
UK & Overseas	58.73	60.19	+ 1.36	0.74

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	101.20	108.80	+ 2.50	3.99
Sector Value Gwth	101.60	107.18	+ 2.43	3.24
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	217.80	231.70	+11.50	
Income #	191.85	204.09†	+ 2.82	4.19
UK Growth	75.11	79.98†	+ 0.79	0.44
International	84.36	89.73†	+ 1.32	0.07
Ecology	95.06	101.13	+ 2.76	1.08
European	151.51	161.13	+ 2.15	..
Far Eastern	320.00	340.48	+ 7.20	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	24.76	26.33	+ 0.52	2.16
UK Growth	426.01	453.20	+ 8.74	2.71
-do- Accum	571.00	607.44	+11.72	2.71
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01629 826087				
Balanced Fd #	1446.70	1472.50	+31.20	2.90
Income #	1042.80	1080.80†	+15.90	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.70	163.00		3.71

For Manulife see Canada Life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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers- 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	102.30	105.90†	+ 1.50	7.38
Gilt Yield	121.30	127.90†	+ 1.10	6.65
Global Income	232.60	247.40	+ 5.40	3.50
High Yield	148.70	158.20†	+ 2.58	5.67
-do- Accum	473.20	503.49†	+ 7.70	5.67
Smlr Cos Div	57.47	61.14	+ 0.81	2.80
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	129.80	138.10†	+ 3.70	..
Asian Growth	358.60	387.50	+ 9.20	0.27
-do- Accum	421.50	448.40	+10.90	0.22
North American	98.46	104.70†	+ 3.20	0.25
European Special	119.90	127.60	+ 2.10	0.10

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	170.60	179.60†	+ 2.80	2.09
-do- Accum	200.30	210.80†	+ 3.30	2.09
UK Sel Ptflo	149.10	157.00†	+ 2.80	2.50
-do- Accum	177.30	186.60†	+ 3.30	2.50
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	76.04	80.89	+ 1.11	3.50
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4648				
Intl Income	81.71	86.74†	+ 1.84	3.95
European	97.11	103.10	+ 1.90	0.80

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Equities pause for breath

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3090¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3066¾	−3¾	4.2	11.4
683	413	Abbey Nat	550	−½	3.7	13.2
385	250	Allied Irish	376	−4	3.8	11.0
318	198	Aus New Z	318		5.1	...
4425	2531¼	Bank America	3939¾	+31¼	...	
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	287½	...	2.8	13.2
812½	557½	Barclays	772	+2½	3.6	10.5
488	288	Bk of Ireland	480	−3	3.5	9.8
525	418	Cater Allen	470	−3	8.0	7.6
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4526	−25	...	...
340½	216½	Close Bros	337	+2	3.2	14.9
£162¾	£129¾	Commerzbk	£156	−2¾	3.4	...
1375	962¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1216¾	+16¾	0.4	...
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3083¾	+31¾	2.4	...
851¼	368¾	Espirito Santo	712¾	−3¾	5.1	9.3
1611	1139¾	Fuji Bank Y	1464¾	+30¾	0.4	...
490	305	Gerrard Nat	487	+2	6.0	15.1
253	180	Hambros	200	−1	4.7	...
1077	689	HSBC	1076	+22½	3.3	14.0
1049	878	HSBC HK	1048½	+29	3.4	13.6
423	228	Irish Perm	421		2.9	9.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		6.2	15.6
162	85	King Shaxson†	148		7.7	11.3
347	308	Lloyds TSB	347	+6½	...	...
641	479	Nat Aust Bk	611	...	6.8	8.4
697	454	Nat West	665	−2½	4.3	10.3
67	44	Rea Brothers	65		1.9	20.8
639½	373½	Royal Bk Scot	572	+1	3.5	13.6
1478	995¾	Schroders	1335	+5	1.3	19.0
1188	823¾	Schroders N/V	1080	...	1.7	15.1
111	81	Singer & Fried	102		4.5	10.6
625	246	Stand Chart	618	+26	1.8	15.5
121	70	Union	97	+4	3.8	...
£145¾	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£139¾	−112½	2.2	...
302	211	Westpac	302	+1¼	4.5	
295	200	Wintrust	270		6.5	15.2

BREWERIES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
279	143	Ascot Hldgs	273		...	0.6
738	487	Bass†	732	−2½	3.9	16.6
473	289	Boddington	473	...	2.4	24.3
192	137	Burtonwood Brwt	174	...	3.9	16.6
196	137	Eldridge P 'A'†	196	+1	2.8	...
433	335	Fuller Smi 'A'	414	...	2.8	16.3
539½	402	Greenalls Grp	509	+6	3.1	...
698	498	Greene King†	610	−3	3.0	15.0
357	240	Hardy Hanson	317		4.1	...
169	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3102	...	2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	324		2.1	16.3
325	268	Marston Thmp	322	...	2.8	15.2
598	391½	Morland†	597	+2	2.5	18.7
8¼	6	Paramount†	6		4.6	9.6
703	307	Regent Inns	689	+1	1.3	27.1
2575	1787½	SA Breweries	2575	+18¾	1.4	33.8
649	482	Scot & Newcl	613	−3	3.8	16.5
337	230	Scot & New PIP	330			
231	173	Tom Cobleigh	224		1.6	36.4
309	211	Vaux Group†	297	−2	4.3	15.3
657	449	Wetherspoon JD	657	+2	1.5	28.7
702	521	Whitbread†	688½	−1	3.7	17.6
597	483	Wolverhampton Dt	590	−2	3.2	14.4
310	186	Yates Brost	298	+2	1.3	26.6
475	425	Young 'A'	431	..	4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

BUSINESS SERVICES

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88	ABI Leis	88	...	6.2	8.0
485	430	Adam & Harvey	443	...	5.5	5.8
21	13	Alexanders	16		2.4	
113	88	Appleyard	104	+2	7.2	11.2
4½	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	...	2.1	...
623	505	BBS Group†	536	+3	4.6	15.4
39	31	Bandt	37	...		
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16	..	9.8	11.4
28	18	Bogod 'A'†	26	..	3.5	8.6
483	345	Brammer	442	+9	3.8	17.0
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	20	+2	1.2	...
98	78	Brit Fittings	84	...	4.8	12.7
270	215	Caltyns	245		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	76	−1	4.5	20.6
94	70	Charles Sidney†	82	...	5.6	12.9
61	35	Cook (DC)†	55		3.9	8.1
320½	220	Cowie	310		3.8	13.4
155	125	Dag Motors	126		7.1	10.4
596	503	Dawsons El	548	+5	2.4	12.2
501	375½	Diploma	486	+6	4.5	13.2
378	236	Electrocomponents†	337	+8	2.2	22.9
314	153	Evans Elec	305	−7	1.7	21.1
235	84	Essodollar	101		9.7	6.1
120	87	European Mtr	101	+2	6.4	8.7
449	280	Evans Halshaw	308	+17	6.3	8.5
732	612	Farnell Elect	679	+1	1.8	19.7
72	48	Fife Indmar	66	...	6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	18½	...	5.6	8.0
37	16	Glendenton	34½	...	1.1	...
108	81	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.6
220	148	Harris (Philip)†	219		4.2	13.9
225	142	Headlam	223		2.4	18.5
571	258	Henlys	567	−1	2.2	21.1
137	81	Holders Tech	133	...	5.6	25.3
153	88	ISA Intl	150		1.3	17.1
430	200	Inchcape	288	−5	7.0	24.3
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	58		1.6	11.1
187	142	Kwik-Fit	174	−1	3.3	14.9
358¼	284½	Lex Service	330	+2	5.5	17.6
195	144	Lookers	144	−1	6.6	7.9
22	9	Malaya Grp	10½	−½	5.6	14.5
8½	5	Middlesex	8	−¼	0.8	18.4
71	36	Midstates	42	...	2.0	5.9
534	330	Norbain†	475	...	2.0	16.1
288	78	Northumbert	254	...	8.9	28.4
155	135	PCT	135		7.1	9.6
283	225	Pendragon	277		3.8	14.5
188	128	Perry Gp	148		6.5	11.2
146	126	Quicks Group	140		5.1	11.9
198	160	REA	165		2.7	22.0
3½	2½	Reece	2¾			
73	48	Rotson	59	...	2.6	12.0
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3	−¼	...	
63½	37½	SEP Ind	54		3.8	...
17½	8½	Spillers	13½	...	...	7.7
271	226	Tewe Products	267		4.4	15.3
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273	+2	2.8	15.1
333	240	Wholesale Figs	333	..	4.4	20.8
80	64½	Witshart†	55½	..	1.8	13.2
90	56½	Wyko	83		1.9	..
118	88	Young (H)†	114		4.3	

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1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian†	574	+2	5.9	8.8
438	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	430		3.9	41.6
1180	676	Northumbrian	1168	...	3.2	9.2
668	475	Severn Trent†	633	+3	5.9	7.6
2400	1855	South Staffs	2388		3.8	13.9
595	459	South West†	500	+1	7.0	7.0
731	517	Southern†	667	+3	5.1	8.1
575	456	Thames†	543	+6	6.1	7.4
641	467¾	Utd Utilities	595	+7	5.8	7.7
880	582¼	Welsh†	752	+3	7.0	9.0
108½	100½	Welsh Cm Pftt	103¾	−½	9.5	
361	256¼	Wessex†	325	+2	5.3	7.0
677½	472	Yorkshire†	607	+6	5.8	8.0

Source: Reuters

◎ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	[illegible]	..	14.87	6.03
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	[illegible]	..	12.98	6.02
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	[illegible]	..	9.89	5.89
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]		6.90	5.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	[illegible]	..	12.38	5.83
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	[illegible]		10.03	5.87
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.40	5.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.07	6.02
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.13	6.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	...	7.08	6.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	[illegible]		6.74	6.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.01	6.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.66	6.28
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.49	6.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.76	6.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.52	6.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.37	6.43
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.08	6.44
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.12	6.53

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.28	6.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.57	6.60
[illegible]	117	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.48	6.60
114	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.78	6.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.93	6.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.52	6.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.59	7.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.56	7.08
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.61	6.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.18	5.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.54	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.38	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.52	7.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.80	7.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.41	7.18
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.83	7.37
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.78	7.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.00	7.44
[illegible]	94	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.67	7.49

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.09	7.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.99	7.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.97	7.61
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.66	7.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	7.69
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.67	7.65
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	7.64
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.89	7.70
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.52	7.73

UNDATED

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.88	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.90	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 1996	[illegible]			2.05
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4½% 1998	[illegible]		1.15	2.43
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.72	3.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.92	3.33
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.84	3.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.09	3.38
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.18	3.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.25	3.47
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.30	3.49

Courier triumphs in small hours after lengthy encounter with Woodbridge

Krajicek floored by surface tension

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

RICHARD Krajicek, at 6ft 5in, and Todd Martin, at 6ft 6in, are two of the giants of the modern game. Yesterday, though, they were both belittled in the third round of the Australian Open as the temperature rose again to 100F, causing discomfort overhead and especially underfoot.

The speed of the courts at Flinders Park has been reduced since the championships last year. The new surfaces are a hybrid of the old Rebound Ace, which had been in place since the complex was opened nine years ago, and a new version, which was considered not fast enough.

"We asked for a mixture of the two," Paul McNamee, the tournament director, confirmed. "It is slightly coarser, so it plays a bit slower." The players have also noticed that, under an unremitting sun, it tends to become more adhesive. Andre Agassi warned of the danger it can pose.

"When it gets hot," the holder explained, "it gets very tacky and the traction becomes almost too good. When you stop to change direction, you'd better be ready because once you plant your feet, the only thing that is going to move is your ankle or your knee."

Or, in the case of Krajicek, the lower back. Towards the end of the first set against Jean-Philippe Fleurian, the Dutchman launched himself for an intended volley without moving his feet. He felt a twinge at the base of his spine which, despite treatment, worsened the longer he played.

Four games into the third set, he chose to retire. Fleurian, a qualifier, thus benefited for the second time from a wounded opponent. Sjeng Schalken also ushered him through the opening round. In between, the fortunate Frenchman distinguished himself by becoming the last man to beat Stefan Edberg in the Australian Open.

Agassi suggested that Krajicek's ailment might be psychosomatic. "He gets injured just thinking about playing tennis," he said. The comment may seem to be an insensitive aside but, according to the Dutchman's record, it is justified. It was the sixth time he has defaulted within the past five years.

Thomas Muster is, by comparison, a masochist in training and on court. Yet he was also apparently in physical agony as he crumpled on the baseline, yelping in pain, midway through the second set against another qualifier, Nicklas Kulti, of Sweden. The right ankle was the source of the anguish.

He had it bandaged (Monica Seles, as a precautionary measure, habitually plays here with both ankles tightly strapped) but was not sure for how long he could continue. Kulti, with an abject service game at 5-4, subsequently helped to convince the No 3 seed that he would profit by playing on. He did and went through in straight sets.

Martin, the No 15 seed, was inconvenienced not so much by the conditions as by the mental distress imposed on him by Jonas Bjorkman. Tim Henman will empathise. The last British survivor was knocked out in the previous round by the 23-year-old who has suddenly rediscovered the belief that elevated him to No 21 in the world.

Since losing in Rome last May, Bjorkman had been eliminated in the first round in half of his 18 tournaments — once by Henman, in Nottingham, and once by Greg Rusedski, in Essen. Yet it was the nerve of Martin, the runner-up two years ago, which frayed in a fluctuating final set featuring five breaks in ten games.

The tension and quality of that match was later to be far surpassed. Jim Courier was involved in the most dramatic match of the championships last year, the quarter-final, when he submitted to a sobbing Pete Sampras, and he now featured in the finest and appreciably the longest of the first week.

He supplied the brawn and Todd Woodbridge the brain in a contest that endured for 4½ hours, stretching into the early hours of the morning. During the course of it, Courier, aggrieved by decisions which he perceived to be erroneous, received official warnings for ball abuse and for time wasting.

With the crowd against him, he missed one match point at 5-4 in the fifth set before saving three break points in the next game. Courier, twice the former champion, missed another two match points at 6-5 but converted his fourth against his Australian opponent to go through 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 3-6, 8-6.

Michael Chang is the only man to have reached the fourth round without dropping a set. By comparison, the women have followed their usual predictable pattern. All eight third-round matches yesterday were decided in straight sets, the result which has been achieved throughout by six of the winners.

TREVOR COLLENS

Courier displays the power that brought him victory over Woodbridge yesterday

RESULTS FROM FLINDERS PARK

MEN'S SINGLES: Third round: M Chang (US) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-2, 6-2, 7-6; T Muster (Austria) bt N Kulti (Swe) 6-4, 7-6, 6-4; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt P McEnroe (US) 1-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3; J-P Fleurian (Fr) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 4-6, 6-3, 2-2, ret; M Ondruska (SA) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0; A Agassi (US) bt S Bryan (US) 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-1; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt T Martin (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; J Courier (US) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 3-6, 8-6

MEN'S DOUBLES. Second round: J Eltingh and P Haarhuis (Holl) bt M Sinner (Ger) and J Winnink (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt L Lavalle (Mex) and E Sánchez (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) and W Ferreira (SA) bt T Kronemann (US) and D MacPherson (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; M Damm (Cz) and J Grabb (US) bt M Philippoussis and P Rafter (Aus); T Ho (US) and B Steven (NZ) bt N Broad (GB) and P Norval (SA) 6-2, 6-2; S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) bt L Lobo (Arg) and J Sánchez (Sp) 7-5, 6-2; M Goliner and D Prinosil (Ger) bt B Black (Zim) and G Connell (Can) 3-6, 7-6, 6-6; G Forget (Fr) and J Hlasek (Switz) bt R Bergh and D Eleriot (Swe) 6-4, 6-2; M Tebbutt and P Tramacchi (Aus) bt P McEnroe (US) and S Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 6-4

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Third round: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt S Cacic (US) 6-3, 6-3; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-4, 6-0; C Rubin (US) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-0, 6-2; G Sabatini (Arg) bt K Kschwendt (Ger) 6-1, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt N Arendt (US) 6-1, 6-1; S Appelmans (Bel) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 6-3, 6-2; I Majoli (Cro) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2, 6-1; M Seles (US) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 7-5, 6-0

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Second round: A Coetzer and M De Swardt (SA) bt A Dechaume-Balleret and S Testud (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; Y Basuki (Indo) and C Vis (Holl) bt M Saeki and Y Yoshida (Japan) 6-4, 6-2; K Boogert (Holl) and N Bradtke (Aus) bt P Schwarz (Austria) and K Studenikova (Slovakia) 4-0, ret; N Dahlman (Fin) and C Wood (GB) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) and R Stubbs (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belo) bt A Ellwood and N Pratt (Aus) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; M McGrath (US) and L Neiland (Lat) bt A Frazier and K Po (US) 6-4, 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) and P Tarabini (Arg) bt R McQuillan (Aus) and C Porwik (Ger) 6-3, 7-6; I Spirlea (Rom) and L Wild (US) bt K-A Guse (Aus) and P Hy-Boulais (Can) 7-5, 7-6; N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) wo K Nagatsuka and A Sugiyama (Japan) scr. L Davenport and M J Fernandez (US) bt M Lindstrom and M Strandlund (Swe) 7-6, 6-3.

MIXED DOUBLES: First round: J-L De Jager (SA) and J Hetherington (Can) bt D Adams (SA) and W Probst (Ger) 6-0, 6-2; M Keil and L McNeil (US) bt G Raoux and A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-4, 6-4, E Ferreira (SA) and H Sukova (Cz) bt E Sánchez and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 7-5, 6-3; D Nestor and R Simpson (Can) bt R Leach (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) 7-5, 6-2; M Knowles (Bah) and L Raymond (US) bt L Pimek (Bel) and L Golarsa (It) 6-1, 4-6, 8-6, T Kronemann (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt J Frana (Arh) and N Bradtke (Aus) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; P Norval (SA) and E Callens (Bel) bt M Oosting (Holl) and K Radford (Aus) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2; M Lucena and M McGrath (US) bt S Draper and E Smylie (Aus) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5; C Suk (Cz) and G Fernandez (US) bt J Grabb and L Wild (US) 5-7, 7-5, 6-2

Officials appointed for World Cup duty

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAMAN SUBBA ROW will be England's representative on the match referees' panel for the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka next month.

Tournament organisers announced the list of umpires and referees yesterday. There are two umpires from each of the host nations, with David Shepherd representing England.

The list of referees includes Clive Lloyd, of the West Indies, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, of India, John Reid, of New Zealand, and Ranjan Madugalle, of Sri Lanka.

Mark Taylor, Australia's captain, is confident his team can overcome worries about their top-order batting to clinch the World Series Cup limited-overs tournament in Sydney today. Victory over Sri Lanka would give Australia a 2-0 lead in the best-of-three final series.

The Australians won the first game by 18 runs in Melbourne and will have the backing of a sell-out crowd at the Sydney Cricket Ground. "I think we've batted quite well in this series," Taylor said. "Sri Lanka are bowling very well early on and you can easily find youselves at 30 for three or 50 for three.

"The good news is we're still making 200-plus in every game and the end result is what you work on. Two or three of us have helped out in every game. I get a feeling that everyone has underestimated the Sri Lankans apart from us."

New Zealand gave another opportunity to Geoff Allott, the left-arm seam bowler, in the second Test against Zimbabwe which started this morning at Eden Park, Auckland. Gavin Larsen replaced the injured Greg Loveridge in the only change from the team which drew the first Test.

WORLD CUP UMPIRES: S Randell (Australia), S Dunne (New Zealand), D Shephard (England), C Mitchley (South Africa), S Bucknor (West Indies), I Robinson (Zimbabwe), S Venkataraghavan (India), K Ramaswamy (India), Khizer Hyat (Pakistan), Mehboob Shah (Pakistan), K Francis (Sri Lanka) and B Cooray (Sri Lanka).

Docherty expects stiff test in title bid

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DREW DOCHERTY, of Scotland, faces a double obstacle when he enters the ring at Mansfield tonight for his first contest since the death of James Murray last October. Docherty not only has to overcome the memory of that tragic night at the Hospitality Inn, Glasgow, but also he has to deal with a most durable competitor in Daniel Jimenez, of Puerto Rico, the World Boxing Organisation bantamweight champion.

While Docherty says he is confident of being able to give everything — he insists he particularly wants to win the title for Murray's sake — the champion's superiority may well play on his mind. Jimenez took the crown by clearly outpointing Alfred Kotey; the Ghanaian stopped Docherty in just four rounds, however, having first put him down.

Most experts were surprised that Docherty decided to return to the ring with such a hard contest. An easier bout might have given him a better chance of finding out whether his heart is still in boxing.

But, as Docherty's manager, Tommy Gilmour, explained, the Scot had the choice of meeting either Johnny Armour, of Chatham, for the Commonwealth title or Jimenez. Since, he believes, there is little to chose between the two, both champions being equally tough, Docherty decided to go for the bigger title. He could try for the Commonwealth if he failed against Jimenez, he reasoned.

Docherty has looked good in training, according to his coach, Benny King. Docherty floored the exciting young super-bantamweight prospect, Michael Brodie, in sparring.

Jimenez does not have Kotey's punch, but he is a non-stop worker. The Ghanaian, who put Jimenez on the floor early, would have beaten him if he had worked harder. If Docherty is fully prepared, mentally and physically, to match the champion's work rate, he could still win.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Everton
(2) Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday
(3) Chelsea v Nottingham Forest
(-) Liverpool v Leeds
(4) Manchester City v Coventry
(5) Newcastle v Bolton
(-) Southampton v Middlesbrough
(6) West Ham v Man Utd .... P
(7) Wimbledon v QPR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	22	16	3	3	43	18	51
Man Utd	23	12	6	5	41	27	42
Tottenham	23	11	8	4	32	22	41
Liverpool	22	11	6	5	41	21	39
Arsenal	23	10	7	6	31	22	37
Nottm F.	22	9	10	3	33	31	37
A Villa	21	10	6	5	27	15	36
Blackburn	23	10	5	8	34	26	35
Leeds	22	10	5	7	30	27	35
Everton	23	9	6	8	33	25	33
Middlsbro	23	9	6	8	25	24	33
Chelsea	23	8	9	6	24	25	33
Sheff Wed	22	6	8	8	33	33	26
West Ham	21	6	5	10	22	32	23
Wimbledon	23	5	6	12	31	45	21
Southampton	22	4	8	10	20	32	20
Coventry	22	4	7	11	28	44	19
Man City	22	5	4	13	12	32	19
QPR	23	5	3	15	17	34	18
Bolton	23	3	4	16	22	44	13

FA UMBRO TROPHY. First round: Ashton United v Blyth Spartans; Bognor Regis v Worcester; Boston v Chorley; Bromsgrove v Bishop Auckland; Burton v Telford; Cambridge City v Boreham Wood; Carshalton v Woking; Chelmsford v Newport AFC; Colwyn Bay v Altrincham; Dover v Cheltenham; Dudley v Halesowen; Farnborough v Slough; Gainsborough v Nuneaton; Gloucester v Staines; Halifax v Southport; Hayes v Enfield; Hednesford v Northwich; Kettering v St Albans; Kidderminster v Gateshead; Macclesfield v Runcorn; Marine v Hyde; Morecambe v Emley; Oxford City v Merthyr; Redditch v Matlock; Rothwell v Welling; Rushden and Diamonds v Purfleet; Stafford v Guiseley; Stalybridge v Gresley; Stevenage v Dagenham and Redbridge; Trowbridge Town v Sudbury Town; Wembley v Kingstonian.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock v Gravesend and Northfleet; Hastings v Atherstone; Salisbury v Crawley; VS Rugby v Ilkeston. Midland division: Bilston v Redditch; Buckingham Town v Bridgnorth; Corby v Hinckley Town; Grantham v Paget Rangers; RC Warwick v Bedworth; Solihull v Leicester United; Stourbridge v Bury Town; Sutton Coldfield v Moor Green; Tamworth v King's Lynn. Southern division: Braintree v Newport IoW; Erith and Belvedere v Cinderford; Fareham v Ashford; Fisher 93 v Clevedon; Fleet Town v Bashley; Forest Green v Margate; Havant v Tonbridge Angels; Sittingbourne v Poole; Weston-super-Mare v Witney; Weymouth v Yate

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Crystal Palace
(9) Charlton v West Bromwich
(10) Grimsby v Millwall
(11) Huddersfield v Oldham
(—) Ipswich v Birmingham
(—) Norwich v Luton
(—) Port Vale v Derby
(12) Reading v Stoke
(13) Sheffield Utd v Watford
(14) Southend v Portsmouth
(15) Wolverhampton v Tranmere

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	26	14	7	5	44	29	49
Charlton	25	11	9	5	35	27	42
Huddersfld	27	11	8	8	37	32	41
Stoke	26	10	9	7	37	32	39
Leicester	25	10	8	7	40	36	38
Norwich	27	10	8	9	39	33	38
Birmingham	25	10	8	7	37	34	38
Sundrland	23	10	8	5	30	20	38
Southend	26	10	8	8	29	31	38
Grimsby	25	9	10	6	31	30	37
Barnsley	26	9	9	8	34	41	36
Millwall	26	9	9	8	27	32	36
Ipswich	25	8	10	7	45	37	34
Tranmere	24	9	7	8	35	27	34
C Palace	24	8	9	7	31	32	33
Portsmth	27	8	8	11	43	44	32
Oldham	25	7	10	8	34	29	31
Port Vale	26	7	8	11	32	39	29
Reading	25	6	10	9	31	36	28
Wolvhmptn	25	5	10	10	30	36	25
West Brom	25	7	4	14	28	41	25
Watford	24	5	9	10	27	31	24
Sheff Utd	25	5	7	13	32	44	22
Luton	24	5	7	12	22	37	22

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Grays; Dulwich v Hendon; Harrow v Hitchin, Sutton United v Bishop's Stortford; Walton and Hersham v Chertsey; Yeading v Worthing. First division: Aldershot Town v Abingdon Town; Barking v Maidenhead United; Basingstoke v Uxbridge; Billericay v Wokingham; Chesham v Thame, Marlow v Heybridge Swifts, Ruislip Manor v Leyton Pennant, Tooting and Mitcham v Berkhamsted. Second division: Canvey Island v Egham, Chalfont St Peter v Dorking, Cheshunt v Croydon, Collier Row v Bedford Town; H Hempstead v Leatherhead. Hungerford v Bracknell; Tilbury v Banstead, Ware v Metropolitan Police, Witham v Edgware. Wivenhoe v Saffron Walden. Third division: Camberley v Wingate and Finchley; Clapton v Southall; East Thurrock v Aveley; Epsom and Ewell v Harefield; Hornchurch v Harlow; Horsham v Hertford, Kingsbury v Northwood, Leighton v Lewes, Tring v Flackwell Heath; Wealdstone v Cove.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth round: Paulton Rovers v Mangotsfield Utd.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Briton Ferry; Afan Lido v Llansantffraid; Barry v Flint Town (2.30); Caernarfon v Cwmbran; Cemaes Bay v Ebbw Vale, Llanelli v Caersws; Newtown v Bangor City (2.30) Rhyl v Inter Cardiff; Ton Pentre v Porthmadog

Second division

(16) Blackpool v Bristol City
(17) Bournemouth v Bradford
(18) Brentford v York
(19) Brighton v Peterborough
(20) Bristol Rovers v Carlisle
(21) Chesterfield v Oxford Utd
(22) Crewe v Wycombe
(23) Notts County v Wrexham
(24) Rotherham v Burnley
(25) Shrewsbury v Swansea
(26) Stockport v Walsall
(27) Swindon v Hull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	24	13	8	3	39	17	47
Crewe	23	13	5	5	44	26	44
Blackpool	23	11	7	5	35	24	40
Notts Co	22	11	7	4	34	19	40
Burnley	23	10	8	5	39	30	38
Chestrfld	23	10	7	6	35	25	37
Bradford	24	11	4	9	35	37	37
Shrwsbury	25	11	4	10	34	33	37
Wrexham	23	8	11	4	35	26	35
Wycombe	23	8	11	4	31	23	35
Bournemth	25	10	5	10	30	35	35
Oxford Utd	23	9	7	7	31	24	34
Bristol R	25	9	7	9	29	35	34
Stockport	25	8	9	8	32	28	33
Walsall	23	8	8	7	27	18	32
Bristol City	25	7	9	9	25	34	30
Peterboro	23	6	8	9	32	37	26
Rotherham	24	6	7	11	29	39	25
York	23	7	4	12	27	37	25
Carlisle	25	5	9	11	30	39	24
Brighton	24	6	4	14	22	38	22
Swansea	24	4	9	11	24	41	21
Brentford	23	5	6	12	19	31	21
Hull	23	2	8	13	18	40	14

FA OF WALES TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Bryntirion Ath v Llandudno; Hoover Sports v Taffs Well; Maesteg Park v Rhydymwyn; Penrhyncoch v Oswestry

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v St Patrick's Ath (7 0).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Leek, Barrow v Droylsden, Frickley v Accrington Stanley, Knowsley v Spennymoor; Winsford v Buxton. First division: Atherton LR v Lincoln United, Eastwood Town v Fleetwood, Farsley Celtic v Congleton; Great Harwood v Worksop, Lancaster v Harrogate Town, Leigh v Netherfield, Warrington v Alfreton, Whitley Bay v Curzon Ashton; Workington v Bradford PA Ave. League Cup: Fourth round: Hyde v Lancaster

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Hullbridge Sports: Brentwood v Burnham Ramblers: East Ham v Maldon, Ford United v Concord, Great Wakering v Bowers; Sawbridgeworth v Eton Manor; Stansted v Southend Manor

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Waltham Abbey; Brimsdown Res v St Margaretsbury; Cockfosters v Tottenham Omada, Croydon v Brook House; Hillingdon Boro v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Tufnell Park v Amersham; Willesden (Hawkeye) v Corinthian-Casuals; Woolwich v Hanwell

Third division

(28) Barnet v Hereford
(29) Bury v Northampton
(30) Cambridge Utd v Scunthorpe
(31) Cardiff v Rochdale
(32) Darlington v Exeter
(33) Hartlepool v Chester
(34) Lincoln v Preston
(35) Mansfield v Fulham
(36) Plymouth v Colchester
(37) Scarborough v Doncaster
(38) Torquay v Leyton Orient
(39) Wigan v Gillingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	24	14	7	3	32	8	49
Preston	24	11	11	2	51	23	44
Chester	25	12	8	5	43	29	44
Colchester	24	10	9	5	37	29	39
Doncaster	24	11	5	8	29	32	38
Plymouth	24	10	7	7	39	28	37
Bury	24	9	9	6	29	30	36
Darlington	24	9	9	6	27	24	36
Cambs Utd	24	9	6	9	38	41	33
Rochdale	23	9	5	9	34	28	32
Wigan	24	8	8	8	31	31	32
Northmptn	24	8	7	9	27	25	31
L Orient	26	8	7	11	25	34	31
Exeter	25	6	12	7	27	30	30
Barnet	25	6	12	7	26	29	30
Hereford	23	6	10	7	32	29	28
Scunthrpe	22	6	8	8	31	29	26
Fulham	23	5	11	7	29	32	26
Hartlpool	23	6	8	9	24	33	26
Cardiff	25	6	8	11	23	30	26
Scarboro	24	5	10	9	26	34	25
Lincoln	24	6	7	11	24	38	25
Mansfield	24	4	12	8	31	43	24
Torquay	24	2	8	14	20	46	14

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Aberdeen v Partick
(41) Hibernian v Motherwell
(42) Kilmarnock v Celtic
(43) Raith v Falkirk
(44) Rangers v Hearts

First division

(45) Clydebank v Greenock Morton
(46) Dumbarton v Dundee Utd
(47) Dundee v St Mirren
(48) Hamilton v Dunfermline
(49) St Johnstone v Airdrie

Second division

(50) Berwick v East Fife
(51) Clyde v Stranraer
(52) Forfar v Stirling
(53) Queen of South v Ayr
(54) Stenhousemuir v Montrose

Third division

(55) Brechin v Albion
(56) Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
(57) East Stirling v Caley This
(58) Queen's Park v Alloa
(—) Ross County v Livingston

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chipstead v Peppard, Cobham v Farnham; Cranleigh v Bedfont; Eton Wick v Raynes Park Vale; Godalming and Guildford v Feltham; Horley v Reading; Merstham v Ashford; Viking Sports v Ash; Walton Casuals v Sandhurst; Westfield v DCA Basingstoke. League Cup: Third round: Netherne v Hartley Wintney.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hatfield v Arlesey Town; Biggleswade v Milton Keynes. Harpenden v Langford, Hoddesdon v Toddington, Letchworth v London Colney, Welwyn Garden v Stotfold; Buckingham Athletic v Potters Bar; Brache Sparta v Royston. Senior Division Cup: Group A: Houghton v Leverstock Green. Senior Division Cup: Group B: Stony Stratford v Holmer Green. Senior division: Winslow v Totternhoe; Ampthill v ACD FC; Tring v Bedford United; The 61 FC (Luton) v New Bradwell. First Division Cup: Third round: Caddington v De Havilland.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Great Yarmouth; Felixstowe v Diss; Hadleigh U v Clacton; Haverhill v Fakenham; Soham v Harwich and Parkeston; Stowmarket v Woodbridge; Sudbury Res v Newmarket; Sudbury v March; Tiptree v Lowestoft; Wisbech v Watton; Wroxham v Halstead

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Thatcham; Totton v Bournemouth, BAT v Wimborne, Bemerton Heath v Whitchurch; Brockenhurst v Aerostructures, Christchurch v Eastleigh, Cowes Sports v Andover; East Cowes v Swanage and Herston, Petersfield v Ryde Sports; Portsmouth v Gosport.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Chelmsley v Coleshill; Coventry Sphinx v Alvechurch Villa; Handrahan Timbers v Highgate, Mile Oak v Upton; Shirley v Southam. West Midland Fire Service v Northfield; Wellesbourne v Blorwich. Presidents Cup: Third round: Collets Green v Newhall. Challenge Vase: Third round: Archdale 73 v Earlswood. Carlsberg Cup: Third-round replay: Massey Ferguson v Studley BKL.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Calne; Bridport v Frome; Brislington v Bideford, Bristol Manor Farm v Tiverton; Crediton v Odd Down; Elmore v Mangotsfield; Paulton Rovers v Westbury; Taunton v Chippenham.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Horsham YMCA; Hassocks v Crowborough; Oakwood v Shoreham; Ringmer v Portfield; Southwick v Arundel; Three Bridges v Pagham; Whitehawk v Hailsham. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Wick v Stamco.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Dartford; Cray v Deal; Greenwich v Canterbury; Herne Bay v Hythe; Ramsgate v Thamesmead. First division Cup: Third round: Chatham v Whitstable; Crockenhill v Furness; Sheppey v Tunbridge Wells; Slade Green v Corinthian.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Banbury; Brackley v Cirencester; Carterton v Didcot; Fairford v Abingdon United; Kintbury v Endsleigh; Lambourn Sports v Shortwood; North Leigh v Highworth; Tuffley v Burnham

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Boston; Holbeach v Wootton; Kempston v Desborough; Long Buckby v Eynesbury; Mirrlees Blackstone v Wellingborough; Raunds v Stamford; St. Neots v Bourne, Spalding v Newport Pagnell; S and L Corby v Potton; Stotfold v Northampton Spencer.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Nantwich; Chadderton v Rossendale; St Helens v Clitheroe; Salford v Maine Road; Skelmersdale v Eastwood H. League Cup: Third round: Burscough v Prescot; Blackpool Rovers v Holker Old Boys; Kidsgrove v Trafford; Maghull v Darwen; Mossley v Penrith; Nelson v Atherton Collieries; Newcastle Town v Glossop North End; Tetley Walker v Flixton.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Chester-le-Street; Consett v Murton; Crook v RTM Newcastle; Dunston Federation v Ferryhill, Durham v Billingham; Guisborough v Peterlee; Shildon v Tow Law, West Auckland v Seaham Red Star. Whitby v Whickham

BASS IRISH CUP: Fifth round: Ards v Crookstown United; Armagh v Dundela; Bangor v Portadown; Chimney Corner v Ballymena, Crumlin United v Linfield (at Windsor Park, Belfast), Crusaders v Dungiven. Distillery v Larne Tech OB, Dungannon Swifts v Omagh; East Belfast v Malachians; Glenavon v First Liverpool, Glentoran v Limavady United, Kilmore v Cliftonville; Larne v Banbridge, Newry v Coleraine; RUC v Carrick; Tobermore v Ballyclare

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Brierley Hill v Stafford Town; Darlaston v Gornal Athletic, Ettingshall Holy Trinity v Tividale, Hill Top Rangers v Cradley Town, Ludlow Town v Walsall Wood, Malvern Town v Lye Town, Pelsall Villa v Stourport Swifts, Wednesfield v Wolverhampton Casuals; Westfields v Lichfield City.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Armthorpe Welfare, Ashfield v Sheffield; Belper Town v Thackley; Brigg Town v Liversedge; Goole v Maltby MW, Hallam v Denaby; Hatfield Main v North Ferriby; Ossett Town v Hucknall; Pickering v Ossett Albion; Stocksbridge PS v Glasshoughton Welfare.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v West Ham, Charlton Ath v Cambridge Utd; Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur, Fulham v Watford; Ipswich v Millwall, Norwich v Leyton Orient; QPR v Gillingham; Southend v Portsmouth.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Cholmeleians, Lancing v Aldenhamians, Reptonians v Malvernians. First division: Brentwoods v Wykehamists; Haberdashers v Ardinians; Haileyburians v Wellsians, Harrovians v Bradfieldians; Wellingburians v Salopians

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham v Old Tenisonians, Glyn v Cardinal Manning; Old Aloysians v Old Danes; Old Isleworthians v Old Ignatians. Senior first division: Sheng v Old Salvatorians; Old Manorians v Old Suttonians; Old Tenisonians Reserves v Old Wilsonians; Old Vaughanians v Chertsey.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Civil Service v Norsemen, Crouch End Vampires v Old Esthameians; East Barnet OG v Old Actonians; Nat West Bank v Carshalton; South Bank v Kew Association, Winchmore Hill v West Wickham. Second division: Lensbury v Alexandra Park; Midland Bank v Old Lyonian; Old Bromleians v Old Stationers; Old Parkonians v Lloyds Bank; Old Parmiterians v Polytechnic. Third division: Brentham v Alleyn OB; Broomfield v Old Salesians. Cuaco v Reigate Priory; Ibis v Southgate Olympic; Merton v Old Westminster Citizens.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough v Old Owens; St Mary's College v Old Grammarians; Witan v Parkfield. Senior two: Corinthians Casuals v Hadley; Ealing Association v UCL Academicals; Old Bealonians v Old Finchleians; Old Woodhouseians v Honourable Artillery Co; Wandsworth Borough v Mill Hill Village.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (Kick-off 10 30 unless stated): English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: South East Sussex v Bedford (1.0) London Cup: Norfolk v Inner London (1 0). Presidents League: Andover v Basingstoke; Gosport v Portsmouth; Isle of Wight v Southampton. Meeson Trophy: East Berks v Gosport. London Sun Shield: Aldershot v North Kent. Southern Counties Cup: Redbridge v Hackney. Kent Cup: Orpington v Bexley; Gravesham v Dartford; Maidstone v Dover. Shaw Cup: Cambridge v West Suffolk; Lowestoft v Peterborough; Norwich v Yarmouth. Star Sheild: Brent v Harrow. Essex Johnson Cup: Basildon v Thurrock; Havering v Harlow; Newham v Barking. English Girls Shield: Croydon v Maidstone. English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Lacon Childe, Shropshire v Thomas Alleynes, Staffs (11.0); Hilton Red House, Durham v George Stephenson, Northumberland (10 0). Inter Association: Blackburn v Sefton; Leeds v Manchester; Trafford v Chester. Welsh Shield: Kirkby, Knowsley v Wrexham.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Liberty Trophy: Quarter-finals: Durham v Northamptonshire (Newark 2.0): Yorkshire v Cornwall (Bromsgrove 2.0): Wiltshire v Norfolk (Rushden 2.30); Essex v Hampshire (Desborough, Maidenhead 10 0).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation bantamweight championship: Daniel Jiminez (P Rico, holder) v Drew Docherty (Glasgow) (Mansfield Leisure Centre).

CYCLING: Five Cities Super League (third round, Manchester Velodrome, 7 0).

ICE HOCKEY: British League: Premier division: Basingstoke v Fife (6 30); Newcastle v Cardiff (6 30), Sheffield v Milton Keynes (7.0); Slough v Nottingham (6 30). First division: Bracknell v Dumfries (6 0); Chelmsford v Paisley (6.30); Medway v Billingham (6.0); Peterborough v Blackburn (5.30); Swindon v Murrayfield (5 30), Telford v Guildford (7 30)

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Cheadle v Timperley; Boardman and Eccles v Sheffield Steelers; Heaton Mersey v Hulmeians, Mellor v Old Waconians; Poynton v Stockport.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated
C denotes cancelled

Five nations' championship

France v England
(at Parc des Princes, 2.0)
Ireland v Scotland
(at Lansdowne Road, 3.0)

Swalec Cup
Fifth round

Abergavenny v Cardiff Inst
Abertillery v Bridgend
Builth Wells v Rumney
Caerphilly v Rhymney
Dunvant v Glamorgan Wanderers
Merthyr v Llanelli
Neath v Heol-Y-Cyw
Newbridge v Cross Keys
Newport v Ystradgynlais
Penarth v Cardiff
Penygraig v Llandovery
Pontypridd v Treorchy
South Wales Police v Abercynon
Swansea v Tonmawr
Whitland v Blackwood
Ynysddu v Maesteg

Pilkington Shield: Fifth round: Midland division: Bedford Swifts v Wellingborough OG.

Club matches

Aberavon v Carmarthen Quins C
Barking v Woodford (12.30)
Birmingham Solihull v Hereford (2.15)
Blackheath v Harlequins C
Corstorphine v Royal High (11.0)
Ebbw Vale v Blaina
Harrogate v Leeds (2.15)
High Wycombe v Bracknell (11.0)
Llanharan v Tondu
London Welsh v London Scottish (10.30)
Plymouth v Torquay
Redruth v Brixham C
Richmond v Saracens (12.0)
Rotherham v Hull Ionians
Sale v Newcastle (3.0)
Selby v Otley (2.15)
Stoke v Derby
Wharfedale v Morley

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Heworth (2.30); Hemel Hempstead v Wigan St Patricks (2.0); Leigh Miners Welfare v Egremont (2.30); Millom v West Hull (2.0)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester v Hemel (7 30); Manchester v Derby (7 30); Thames Valley v London (8.0); Worthing v Birmingham (8.0).

HOCKEY

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Barcelona): Belgium v Spain (12.30); Malaysia v Belorussia (2.30).

DTZ THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Bloxwich; Bridgnorth v Loughborough Student; Hampton-in-Arden v Khalsa; Harborne v North Notts; John Player v Nottingham.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Chichester v Beckenham; High Wycombe v Maidenhead; Lewes v Anchorians; Lions v Bournemouth; Newbury v Gore Court; Old Walcountians v Ashford; Spencer v Old Kingstonians; Wimbledon v Winchester; Woking v Oxford Hawks; Wokingham v Fareham. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Cheam; Camberley v Dulwich; Epsom v London University; Old Edwardians v Old Whitgiftians; Old Mid Whitgiftians v Blandford; Oxshott v Petersfield; Solent HC v Andover; Purley v Oxted; Southampton v Basingstoke; Walton and Weybridge v Old Cranleighans. Kent/Sussex: Bexleyheath v Crawley; Bognor v Blackheath; Brighton v Bexley Invicta; Mid Sussex v Horsham; Old Beccehamians v Marden Russets; Old Williamsonians v Old Holcombeians; Sevenoaks v Old Bordenians; Tulse Hill v Middleton; Tunbridge Wells v Belvedere; Worthing v Herne Bay. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Bracknell v Staines; City Of Oxford v ETESSA; Eastcote v Sunbury; Harrow v Richings Park; Hayes v PHC Chiswick; HCC v OMT; Headington v Amersham; Hendon v Ramgarhia; Marlow v Milton Keynes; Mill Hill v NPL.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Halifax v Formby; Neston v Ben Rhydding; Norton v Southport; Sheffield Bankers v Warrington; Timperley v Harrogate. Second Division. Bowdon v Oxton; Durham University v Tynemouth; Northern v Wigan; Ramgarhia v Disley; Springfields v Blackburn; Stockton v Wakefield; Swalwell v Alderley Edge; York v Knutsford.

WOMEN'S INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division (Kelsey Kerridge, Cambridge): Ipswich v Chelmsford (10 0); Balsam Leicester v Slough (10 50), Hightown v Doncaster (11 40); Sutton Canada Life v Ipswich (12.30); Chelmsford v Balsam Leicester (1.20); Slough v Hightown (2.10); Doncaster v Sutton Canada Life (3.0). First division (Yate, Bristol): Bracknell v Woking (10 0); Olton v Canterbury (10.50); Wimbledon v Liverpool (11 40); Sheffield v Bracknell (12 30); Woking v Olton (1.20); Canterbury v Wimbledon (2.10); Liverpool v Sheffield (3.0)

WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath v Newtown; Haverfordwest v Penarth; Newport v Colwyn Bay; Swansea v Pontypridd.

WEST LEAGUE: Bournemouth v Yate; Colwall v Cheltenham; Leominster v East Glos; Wimborne v Redland.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Aston Villa v Tottenham (4 0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Leicester v Sunderland

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round: Bath v Yeovil

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Derry (12.0), Dundalk v Drogheda (3 15); Shamrock v Sligo (2.30): UCD v Bohemians (3.15).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Wayside C v Cherry Orchard (2 15)

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fifth round: Liverpool v Middlesbrough; Croydon v Inter Cardiff, Canary Racers v Ipswich; Ilkeston v Millwall Lionesses; Arsenal v Wembley, Whitehawk v Newcastle, Huddersfield v Everton; Villa Aztecs v Doncaster Belles.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: RTM Newcastle v Bronte; Garswood St Helens v Notts Co, Kidderminster v Langford. Southern division: Brentford v Oxford. Southampton Saints v Town and County; Wimbledon v Leyton Orient.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

CIS county championship
South

Gloucs v Devon (at Lydney)
Herts v Oxfordshire (at Hitchin, 2.0)

CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South West final: Gloucestershire v Berkshire (at Cinderford)

CLUB MATCHES: Broughton Park v Newton-le-Willows; Fylde v Orrell (2 15): Liverpool St Helens v Ashton-under-Lyne: Waterloo v Manchester (2 15)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Manchester (5.0): Doncaster v Thames Valley (5 30). Leopards v Sheffield (5.0): London v Newcastle (5.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Championship

Bradford v Workington
Halifax v St Helens
London Broncos v Castleford
Oldham v Sheffield
Wigan v Leeds

First division

Batley v Huddersfield (3.15)
Featherstone v Keighley (3 30)
Salford v Dewsbury
Whitehaven v Hull (3.30)
Widnes v Rochdale

Second division

Bramley v Leigh
Doncaster v Barrow (2.0)
Hull K R v Chorley (3.15)
Hunslet v Highfield (3.30)
Swinton v Carlisle

BURTONWOOD BREWERY LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Saddleworth v Woolston (at Warrington)

HOCKEY

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Barcelona): Holland v India (10.30): Canada v Britain (2 30).

HA CUP: Fifth round: Slough v Canterbury; Southgate v Cannock; East Grinstead v Wimbledon.

HA CLUB TROPHY: First round: Aldridge v Driffield; Baxton v Prescot; Chapeltown v Corby Town; Coventry and North Warwicks v Spalding; Daventry v Rotherham; De Montfort Univ (Bedford) v Ramgarhia (Leeds); Durham Univ v Sudbury; East Devon v Greenwich; Fleet v Horncastle; Hamble Old Boys v Evesham; Harrow v Blossomfield; Hereford v Haslemere; Horsham v Phillipians; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Farnborough; Jersey v Herne Bay; Kettering v BAC; Knutsford v Sikh Union (Coventry); Lydney v Finchfield, Melton v Marlborough; Morecambe v Norwich City; Old Southendians v Bexley Invicta; Old Williamsonians v Blandford; PHC Chiswick v Adjutant Generals Corps; Purley v Pelicans; Richings Park v Bridgwater; Shefford v Disley; Sonning v Epsom; Stevenage v Tynemouth; West Herts v Milton Keynes; Weymouth v Naval Air Command, Wigan v North Stafford; York CS Trojans v St Neots

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University v City of Oxford.

WOMEN'S INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division (Kelsey Kerridge, Cambridge): Doncaster v Slough (10.0); Chelmsford v Sutton Canada Life (10 50); Hightown v Balsam Leicester (11.40); Ipswich v Doncaster (12.30); Slough v Chelmsford (1.20); Sutton Canada Life v Hightown (2.10); Balsam Leicester v Ipswich (3.0). First division (Yate, Bristol): Liverpool v Canterbury (10.0). Woking v Sheffield (10.50): Wimbledon v Olton (11.40); Bracknell v Liverpool (12.30); Canterbury v Woking (1.20); Sheffield v Wimbledon (2.10); Olton v Bracknell (3 0). Second division (Harvey Hayden, Billborough): St Albans v Bradford Swithenbank (10 0): Dulwich v Ealing (10.50): Sevenoaks v Exmouth (11 40); St Austell v St Albans (12.30): Bradford Swithenbank v Dulwich (1.20); Ealing v Sevenoaks (2.10); Exmouth v St Austell (3 0).

WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath v Colwyn Bay; Newport v Llanfair; Newtown v Pontypridd; Penarth v Swansea.

CLUB MATCHES: Guildford v Southampton; Liverpool v Bedians.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Durham (6 15): Humberside v Slough (5 45); Milton Keynes v Basingstoke (6.0); Nottingham v Fife (7.30); Sheffield v Newcastle (6.30). First division: Billingham v Swindon (5.15). Blackburn v Manchester (6.0); Chelmsford v Telford (6.30); Guildford v Murrayfield (5 15); Medway v Dumfries (6 15); Peterborough v Paisley (5.30); Solihull v Bracknell (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Portsmouth North End cyclo-cross (Netley, 2.0).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	40	75	good	fair	icy	sun	-1	8/1
(Still good skiing on many runs, icy snow low down)								
Obergurgl	40	90	fair	varied	icy	fine	-2	8/1
(Most pistes still good because of excellent grooming)								
St Anton	25	130	fair	crust	art	fine	-1	8/1
(Plenty of good skiing despite growing worn patches)								
Schladming	25	40	fair	crust	art	fair	0	4/1
(All runs complete but snow hard-packed)								
Söll	10	50	worn	crust	closed	sun	2	6/1
(Still good skiing possible: snow machines in use)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	70	220	good	varied	good	fine	-3	12/1
(Still mostly good but some thin and icy spots)								
Chamonix	10	185	fair	varied	worn	sun	-1	6/1
(Good snow available but more rocks poking through)								
Tignes	75	130	good	varied	good	sun	-12	12/1
(Still good snow and skiing; some icy patches)								
Val d'Isère	60	130	good	varied	art	sun	-3	12/1
(Good snow at height but worn patches into town)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	280	good	varied	good	fine	-2	12/1
(Good skiing on firm pistes; fabulous weather)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	30	50	fair	varied	icy	fine	-1	8/1
(Many pistes still OK but snow-cover thinning)								
Grindelwald	0	30	worn	crusty	closed	fine	-3	7/1
(Runs showing signs of wear; still some good snow)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

EXCELLENT
SKIING
CONDITIONS
IN
NORWAY

Plenty of snow has now arrived in
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Hemsedal
Lillehammer &
Gudbrandsdalen

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NORWEGIAN TOURIST BOARD
SKI HOTLINE

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Clough opts for Maine Road move

Francis reunited with Sinton at White Hart Lane

By Russell Kempson and David Maddock

GERRY FRANCIS, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, was yesterday reunited with Andy Sinton, the Sheffield Wednesday winger, and immediately promised good times ahead. Sinton, 29, played for Francis when he managed Queens Park Rangers but has recently drifted out of favour with David Pleat, the Wednesday manager.

However, Sinton will have to wait a fortnight before he can make his debut for Tottenham. His £1.5 million move from Wednesday, on a 3½-year contract, was signed too late for him to play in the FA Carling Premiership match against Aston Villa at Villa Park tomorrow. He is also cup-tied, ruling him out of the FA Cup fourth-round game against Wolverhampton Wanderers on January 27, but will possibly take his bow in the game at Liverpool on February 3.

"I'm just delighted to add another quality player to the squad, one whom I know very well," Francis said. "Andy, Les Ferdinand and David Bardsley all became internationals after I took over as manager at Rangers and he is the kind of player I've wanted here for a while. I want to play with two wingers, especially at home, and that's where Andy can be a big asset for us."

Tottenham finally knocked down Wednesday's asking price, of £2 million, and swiftly reinvested the £1.5 million they received from West Ham United for Ilie Dumitrescu. However, Francis accepts that he has to sell players before he can buy again, despite the club's six-monthly profit of more than £6 million.

Nigel Clough has spent a long time in the shadows but he emerged, blinking almost in disbelief, into the glare of the media spotlight yesterday to sign for Manchester City. Alan Ball, the City manager, persuaded Clough to ignore an offer from Birmingham City and, in agreeing to pay Liverpool £1 million, Ball has offered him the chance to resurrect a career that had taken the path to international honours before entering the dead end of Anfield.

Clough, 29, has made only 11 starts for Liverpool in the past two years but Ball is unconcerned at such inactivity. "Nigel has come down a lot on his Anfield wages and, to me, that is commendable." Ball said. "He is prepared to sacrifice something to join this club. He has been out of top-flight football for a while but it won't affect him because he has a real football brain. To me, the most important speed in football is speed of thought."

It was a day of frantic activity at Maine Road, with Tony Coton, the second-string goalkeeper, leaving as fast as Clough was arriving. He signed for Manchester United late in the afternoon. "It is a wonderful signing because I have always felt that Tony should have been England's goalkeeper," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

Duncan Ferguson, the Everton centre forward, travelled to London yesterday, for the match against Arsenal today, with his immediate future still very much in doubt. The Scotland international was due to learn the outcome of a judicial review of the 12-match ban imposed by the Scottish Football Association, of which he still has seven matches left to run, but the judgment was reserved and will not now be presented until next week.

It allows Ferguson to play this afternoon but if the decision goes against him, he would be suspended for the seven games. Willie Donachie, the Everton coach, suggested that if the appeal is not succesful, Ferguson may refuse to play for Scotland. Donachie said: "It is a massive step to take to refuse a call-up by your country but feelings are strong on this issue."

David Ginola's booking, for "diving" in Newcastle's Coca-Cola Cup defeat against Arsenal, has been annulled. Gerald Ashby, the referee, admitted he had made a mistake after reviewing the incident on video. However, Ginola's later sending-off, for elbowing Lee Dixon, will stand.

Canary Racers seek to ruffle rivals' feathers

THE FIFTH round of the UK Living Women's FA Cup tomorrow has brought Canary Racers and Ipswich Town together in the first competitive East Anglian derby for five years (Sarah Forde writes). Racers, champions of the eastern region premier league, will be the underdogs against their premier southern division opponents, but recent form suggests the game is far from a foregone conclusion.

Racers, because of a lack of resources — in terms of both players (they have a squad of 15) and finances — were unable to compete in the play-offs for promotion to the premier southern league, but have won all eight of their league matches this season, while Ipswich's league form has suffered after losing Mark Willmott, their coach, who left in October after a series of disagreements. Julie Brown, the Racers manager, said: "We're comfortable with being the underdogs. We've got everything to gain and nothing to lose."

Wembley face Arsenal, the holders, while Liverpool, the runners-up last year, should beat Middlesbrough.

When Kinkladze talks about life before coming to England, it is easier to understand his severe disposition. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Passion play brings the house down

David Maddock meets Georgiou Kinkladze and discovers a young man with much on his mind

Georgiou Kinkladze has a puzzling face. It is careworn, the face of a man ten or 15 years older, but that is not the puzzle. Something else nags away throughout a lengthy chat conducted with the help of a bubbly interpreter.

If the eyes really are the window of the soul, then Kinkladze's have frosted over. They betray nothing, no emotions — a disturbing characteristic in a 22-year-old. After listening to the young man talk, flatly, about his life before coming to England, it is easier to understand his severe disposition.

Kinkladze first came to prominence when, playing for Georgia in a European championship qualifying game against Wales, he unleashed a shot from distance of such ferocity that Neville Southall, the Wales goalkeeper, admitted afterwards that he saw nothing but a blur as the ball detonated in the net.

What happened next was something of a blur for the skilful midfield player. He was courted by a succession of foreign agents, and succumbed to the charms of one such man who explained that he had the perfect club. It was a big club — in Manchester.

It was City, not United, but no matter for Kinkladze, who liked what he saw. And so, this summer, after the almost obligatory drama over work permits, he signed on the dotted line and pulled on the pale blue shirt. There were problems at first, not least the language barrier and a build-up by his new manager, Alan Ball, that even Chris Eubank might have found embarrassing. But Ball was right. Kinkladze has an immense talent that has quickly allowed him to overcome the many obstacles lying in wait for those who come to these islands.

So, plenty to smile about then? Not when you have seen two of your closest friends in football gunned down in broad daylight, victims of a complete breakdown in the usual functions of society. Georgia, like many former Soviet republics in the aftermath of the Communist collapse, is a bubbling broth of ethnic tension. Kinkladze explains that his beloved country almost boiled over.

A strong nationalist, he is keen to stress that the problems back home have eased considerably now. Before he left, though, he was scarred by incidents that he will carry in his features for ever.

"The war affected everybody in Georgia. We couldn't go out in the evening, we were afraid of the guns people carried — anybody could be killed by accident.

"It is still difficult for us to talk about it because a lot of our friends died for no good reason. It was a terrible thing and it still haunts me even now. I can wake at night with these terrible images inside my head."

With all that baggage, it is nothing short of miraculous that Kinkladze has managed to stay on the FA Carling Premiership gravy train. In the space of three months, the bristling beauty of his repertoire has brought the house down wherever he has played.

His midweek goal against Leicester City in the FA Cup confirmed what many people had already begun to suspect: his talent could develop into the most impressive this country has witnessed for a long, long time.

Good news for English football, but on the other hand … England have drawn Georgia in the World Cup qualifying competition, and Kinkladze freely admits that his best form is produced for his country.

"I am happy to be here in England. I like it, and I think you will soon see even better from me. But my heart is in Georgia and always will be. I am thinking about my country and people all the time. I am so proud every time I play for my country."

Kit Symons knew all about Kinkladze, even before they became team-mates at Maine Road. The Wales international was detailed to mark him the day his country visited Georgia. It was an experience he is still trying to erase from a traumatised memory.

"I'm not exaggerating to say that Georgi could destroy England if they give him even a fraction of time on the ball," Symons said. "Believe me, he can destroy anyone. He has incredible qualities — and we saw every one of them when he slaughtered Wales almost singlehandedly."

Manchester City's fixture with Coventry City today is a relegation tussle of significance, even at this relatively early stage in the season. But the home supporters can at least take heart from the form of a player who is now their undisputed champion.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v EVERTON

Adams and Keown are suspended, Platt and Bould are injured, Dixon and Winterburn are doubtful. Thus, Bruce Rioch includes McGowan, Hughes and Rose in his squad, names guaranteed to frighten Everton into meek submission. Disturbing times at Highbury, despite a Coca-Cola Cup semi-final ahead, with Rioch again threatening to sally forth into the market, cheque book drawn. Everton, beaten only twice in 12 league outings, have not won in the red corner of north London for nine seasons. Today's the day.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 1 Everton 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 0-1, 1-1, 2-0, 1-0, 1-0, 4-2, 2-0, 2-0, 1-1.

How they line up

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Linighan, S Marshall, G McGowan, N Winterburn, P Merson, J Jensen, G Helder, D Bergkamp, I Wright, P Dickov, S Hughes, M Rose, V Bartram.

EVERTON (from): N Southall, R Unsworth, C Short, D Watson, G Ablett, A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, A Limpar, D Ferguson, G Stuart, D Amokachi, P Rideout, J Kearton.

BLACKBURN v SHEFFIELD WED

Where would Blackburn be without Shearer and his 28 goals? Down among the driftwood, probably, with the Endsleigh Insurance League beckoning. Yet one defeat in ten league matches — the 5-0 collapse at Coventry — suggests Ray Harford has at last found the solution, even if he temporarily misplaced it in the FA Cup exit against Ipswich in midweek. Goalscoring contributions from Shearer's team-mates would still be gratefully received. Wednesday have not won at Ewood Park since 1982; more grief today?

LAST SEASON: Blackburn 3 Sheffield Wed 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 1-0, —, 1-0, 1-1, 3-1.

How they line up

BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, C Coleman, S Ripley, D Batty, L Bohinen, K Gallacher, A Shearer, M Newell, R Mimms, W McKinlay, T Sherwood, M Holmes, P Warhurst, G Fenton.

SHEFFIELD WED (from): C Woods, I Nolan, L Briscoe, P Atherton, D Walker, S Nicol, C Waddle, M Degryse, G Whittingham, D Hirst, D Kovacevic, M Bright, D Stefanovic, G Hyde, L Key, S Stewart.

CHELSEA v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

If Glenn Hoddle is not too careful, Chelsea could win something this season, even if it is only plaudits. One defeat in ten Premiership games and an FA Cup shoot-out success at St James' Park on Wednesday add up to useful form. Hitchcock helped end the suspense with an elementary penalty save from Watson — actually, it was quite a good one — and he should keep his place today, with Kharine still sidelined. Forest visit the Bridge searching for a first away victory in three months but the wait is likely to continue.

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 0 Nottingham Forest 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-2, 2-6, 4-3, —, 2-2, 0-0, 1-0, 0-0, —, 0-2.

How they line up

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, N Colgan, D Petrescu, T Phelan, D Lee, E Johnsen, M Duberry, S Clarke, N Spackman, R Gullit, J Spencer, D Wise, P Furlong, M Hughes, G Peacock, E Newton, A Dow.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, B Roy, K Campbell, I Woan, D Phillips, A I Haaland, J Lee, S Howe, A Fettis.

LIVERPOOL v LEEDS

Is Lee Chapman's return to Elland Road going to prove the shortest loan spell in the history of short loan spells? Chapman lasted only 25 minutes against West Ham last Saturday, before collecting a red card for catching Marc Rieper with his elbow, and is doubtful this afternoon because of a thigh injury. Also, he has lost an appeal against the dismissal, meaning a three-match ban. A case of *Men Behaving Badly* — Lesley Ash, his actress/wife, appears in the television sitcom — and it's back to Ipswich for you. Thanks for not a lot.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 0 Leeds 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 3-0, 0-0, 2-0, 2-0, 0-1.

How they line up

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, J Scales, P Babb, N Ruddock, R Jones, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, R Fowler, S Collymore, I Rush, M Kennedy, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye, S Pears.

LEEDS (from): M Beeney, G Kelly, D Wetherall, C Palmer, R Jobson, A Dorigo, N Worthington, P Beesley, A Couzens, M Ford, T Brolin, G McAllister, G Speed, B Deane, R Wallace, L Chapman, A Gray, I Harte.

MANCHESTER CITY v COVENTRY

Nigel Clough's Anfield hell has finally ended … with a £1.5 million move to Maine Road? Sounds like out of the frying pan into the wok but at least he should get a game or two — after the visit of Coventry — as Alan Ball's attempts to keep City in the Premiership become increasingly fevered. Coventry have not won on Moss Side for nine years but are positively sparkling at the moment, with only two defeats in seven outings. Big Ron's purchase of Whelan is looking inspired, with his three goals in five games.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 0 Coventry 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 5-1, 0-1, —, —, 1-0, 2-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-1, 0-0.

How they line up

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E Immel, N Summerbee, K Curle, K Symons, I Brightwell, M Brown, S Lomas, G Kinkladze, G Flitcroft, U Rösler, N Quinn, G Creaney, R Ekelund, A Kernaghan, M Margetson.

COVENTRY (from): S Ogrizovic, A Pickering, D Rennie, R Shaw, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, P Williams, J Salako, D Dublin, N Whelan, P Ndlovu, B Borrows, G Strachan, W Boland, J Filan.

NEWCASTLE v BOLTON

Top v bottom of the Premiership but it is perhaps worth a moderate bet that bold, brave and battling Bolton will pick up at least a draw on Tyneside. Especially if Sasa Curcic — the Serbian George Best, according to Chris Kamara, the Bradford City manager — wreaks havoc with his thrusting runs; especially, too, if Ferdinand is unable to play because of a rib injury. He has scored 23 goals this season and although football's a team game, Brian, Sir Les is nigh on irreplaceable. Blackburn feel much the same about Shearer.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

NEWCASTLE (from): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, P Albert, S Watson, L Clark, R Lee, P Beardsley, D Ginola, L Ferdinand, P Kitson, D Huckerby, R Elliott, C Holland.

BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcic, A Stubbs, G Bergsson, M Paatelainen, R Sneekes, J McGinlay, N Blake, S Sellars, S McAnespie, D Lee, A Todd, A Davison, W Burnett, F de Freitas.

SOUTHAMPTON v MIDDLESBROUGH

Juninho misses his first game since swapping São Paulo for Middlesbrough, the tiny tot having cried off with a knee injury. Don't you just want to put your arm around him and nurse him back to full health? Dave Merrington gives a debut to Walters, the reject from Anfield, and he could jump-start Southampton's slip-and-slide season. He has not played a Premiership match since May but then some of his new team-mates have barely played for ages, either. A grinding fixture in prospect, not one for the connoisseur.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 1-3, —, —, —, 2-1, —, —.

How they line up

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, R Hall, K Monkou, S Charlton, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, B Venison, M Walters, S Watson, N Shipperley, A Neilson, F Bennett, M Oakley, N Maddison.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, C Morris, S Vickers, N Pearson, P Whelan, N Barmby, B Robson, J A Fjortoft, P Stamp, K O'Halloran, C Blackmore, J Moreno, A Moore, P Wilkinson.

WIMBLEDON v QPR

Rangers have appeared in six London derbies in the league this season — and lost the lot. Not the greatest baggage to take to Selhurst Park, where Wimbledon are still scrapping for Premiership survival. Barker should return, after a four-match [illegible], and will lend much-needed experience to Rangers' young [illegible]orrying of all, though, was Wilkins's comment last week[illegible]. When asked who should next coach England, one of football's most astute brains answered: "Howard Kendall". Cue silence.

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon 1 QPR 3.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-1, 1-2, 1-0, 0-0, 3-0, 0-1, 0-2, 1-1, 1-3.

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, G Elkins, A Reeves, A Pearce, C Perry, A Thorn, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, M Harford, J Goodman, J Euell, E Ekoku.

QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, T Challis, M Brazier, R Brevett, A Impey, S Barker, D Maddix, N Quashie, R Wilkins, T Sinclair, D Dichio, K Gallen, M Hateley, B Allen, A Roberts.

TOMORROW

ASTON VILLA v TOTTENHAM

Villa boast the best defensive record in the Premiership — only 15 goals conceded in 21 matches — and Tottenham boast one of the most effective strike forces in Sheringham and Armstrong. The pair have amassed 33 goals between them this season; who needs Klinsmann? Something has got to give, with Villa narrowly favoured now that Yorke has returned from assisting Trinidad and Tobago in the Concacaf Cup. Tottenham are still chasing a place in Europe if Alan Sugar can sweet-talk the silly burghers of Uefa.

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 1 Tottenham 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 0-3, —, 2-1, 2-0, 3-2, 0-0, 0-0, 1-0, 1-0.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, G Southgate, P McGrath, U Ehiogu, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, A Townsend, T Johnson, R Scimeca, N Spink.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, G Mabbutt, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, J Dozzell, S Nethercott, R Rosenthal, D Caskey, S Campbell, K Wilson, S Slade, C Day.

MONDAY

WEST HAM v MANCHESTER UTD

Ilie Dumitrescu, a legacy from the Ossie Ardiles era at White Hart Lane, is one of the most cultured members of the foreign legion to inhabit these shores. Though Ardiles believed in his blessed skills, Gerry Francis used him only under sufferance. A great pity. If West Ham show a bit more faith, and Harry Redknapp uses him in a free, do-what-you-want role, it will be a sight to behold. Manchester United visit the scene of their last-day surrender of the title last season. Can they, and Cole, exorcise the most haunting of memories?

LAST SEASON: West Ham 1 Manchester Utd 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 0-0, 0-1, 0-2, —, —, 1-0, —, 2-2, 1-1.

How they line up

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, J Dicks, S Potts, I Bishop, M Rieper, A Cottee, J Moncur, K Rowland, I Dowie, D Williamson, M Hughes, J Harkes, G Whyte.

MAN UTD (from): P Schmeichel, D Irwin, G Neville, P Neville, S Bruce, L Sharpe, P Scholes, E Cantona, R Giggs, R Keane, A Cole, N Butt, P Parker, B McClair, A Coton.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	22	51	+25	WWLWW
2 Manchester Utd	23	42	+14	LWWLD
3 Tottenham	23	41	+10	DDLWW
4 Liverpool	22	39	+20	WWDWD
5 Arsenal	23	37	+9	LWLLW
6 Nottm Forest	22	37	+2	LWWLW
7 Aston Villa	21	36	+12	DWLWD
8 Blackburn	23	35	+8	DWWDW
9 Leeds	22	35	+3	WWLDW
10 Everton	23	33	+8	LWLWD
11 Middlesbrough	23	33	+1	WLLLL
12 Chelsea	23	33	-1	WLDWD
13 Sheffield Wed	22	26	0	WDLWD
14 West Ham	21	23	-10	LWLLL
15 Wimbledon	23	21	-14	DWWLL
16 Southampton	22	20	-12	LDDDL
17 Coventry	22	19	-16	LWWDL
18 Manchester City	22	19	-20	DLLWL
19 QPR	23	18	-17	WLLLL
20 Bolton	23	13	-22	DLLLW

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday: Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur (live)

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football: West Ham v Manchester United (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson, [illegible]

River North fades out of Cheltenham contention

Karshi helps cheer the Vesteys

By Julian Muscat

River North leads the partially-hidden winner, Karshi, at Kempton yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

NATIONAL HUNT diehards have had to look the other way as a posse of accomplished Flat racers have made off with the Champion Hurdle. The distinction has been achieved in recent seasons by Kribensis, Royal Gait and Alderbrook: it is now safe to say River North will not be joining them.

Peter Savill was plainly disappointed with his six-year-old at Kempton yesterday. Set an easy task in the first division of the Extra Daylight Novices' Hurdle, River North moved purposefully to the front approaching the final flight. However, a sloppy jump by the odds-on shot cost him precious momentum and Karshi forged ahead on the run-in.

Richard Dunwoody, who rode River North, maintained the outing would improve his mount, but Savill was under no illusions. "If he was going to make it over hurdles he'd have won that," he said. "That has to go down as a disappointing performance."

Indeed it was, even if the winner is thought Cheltenham material by his trainer, Henrietta Knight. Karshi's triumph was particularly welcome: he carries the colours of his owner-breeder, Lord Vestey, whose wife, Cece, returned home from hospital this week after suffering a stroke.

If yesterday's Commons vote went against the extra daylight hour, the Vesteys would surely have been converts to the cause after Castle Sweep extended his unbeaten record in division two of the event named for racing's support of the Bill.

Karshi's defeat of River North, Foil Stone and Arctic Thunder — the latter blundered his chance away at the penultimate flight — offered a timely reminder that jump racing accords scant respect to the Flat form book. As Knight observed: "If that was a Flat race Karshi would have probably finished fourth. It's amazing how hurdling turns the form around."

David Nicholson would have been of the same opinion when contemplating Zabadi's achievements in advance of the Walton Juvenile Novices' Hurdle. In two outings Nicholson's expensive Irish recruit has twice been unsighted behind Ocean Hawk, the latter renowned for his consistency.

The outcome was very different this time as Zabadi, in the hands of Adrian Maguire, reached the final flight straining for his head. Maguire duly obliged him and the four-year-old sprinted clear to earn himself a favourite's chance in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham. If Coral's quote of 8-1 appears cramped, rest assured you would travel many miles before witnessing as dominant a performance.

The stewards, in their wisdom, saw no reason to inquire into the 34 lengths by which Zabadi bettered his recent effort against Ocean Hawk at Exeter. Even Nicholson was surprised enough to declare on unsaddling Zabadi: "If there isn't a stewards' inquiry, there should be."

Not that it would have made much difference, for Nicholson was as bemused as anyone. "He ran an awful race at Ascot and when he came back after the Exeter race he blew as if he had never been on a racecourse," the trainer said.

"We have done nothing different with the horse at home, nor did I change the riding instructions," Nicholson added. The reasons will be rendered academic if Zabadi lands his Cheltenham prep race with equal authority.

Pridwell to show way in Champion Hurdle Trial

HAYDOCK PARK
BBC1

12:30: Plenty of pace here with Mudahim, Putty Road and Better Times Ahead all likely to race prominently. Mudahim won this last year but, after an interrupted preparation, may need his seasonal debut.

Better Times Ahead has a solid form chance but Putty Road, last season's Sun Alliance Hurdle winner, has more scope and gets necessary ground conditions for the first time. David Nicholson's runner was four lengths ahead of **Strawberry Angel** on their seasonal debuts over an inadequate two miles, but the leading American hurdler, now with Charlie Brooks, should relish her first attempt at this trip. At his best, the 11-year-old Simpson could prove the biggest danger.

1:00: Mysilv is the form choice judged on her best performances last term, but Charlie Egerton's horses are not firing at the moment and, in a race with limited betting appeal, her Ascot conqueror, **Pridwell**, makes more appeal. The six-year-old has not always looked the easiest of rides but appears better than ever after reverting from chasing to hurdling. Moorish has to overcome a long absence and Atours, second to the progressive Collier Bay at Sandown last time, looks a bigger threat.

1:30 If Lonesome Glory is a genuine Cheltenham Gold Cup contender then the top American jumper must win this with something to spare. He was mightily impressive when winning at Sandown seven weeks ago, but was aided by the leniency of the handicapper. The bold jumping eight-year-old will not have carried this much weight before or encountered such soft ground and, at likely cramped odds, is worth opposing. Smith's Band is progressive, while Earth Summit should be able to front run on a favoured track.

But I will side with **Scotton Banks**, who is improving by leaps and bounds and looked potentially top class when winning at Wetherby nine days ago. Tartan Tyrant needed his seasonal debut when finishing third that day and should strip fitter here.

KEMPTON PARK
CHANNEL 4

2:10: The lightly-raced **Native Field** benefited from a step up to 2½ miles at Newcastle last Saturday when failing by the minimum margin to catch stablemate Trainglot. Today's extra furlong will help and Jimmy Fitzgerald's talented hurdler can go one better. Kalasadi is well handicapped on early-season form but is arguably better on firmer ground. Angelos Double is clearly capable of better and should be watched in the market.

2:40: The unbeaten and well handicapped Grooving will have plenty of supporters here but I would not want to take too short a price about Josh Gifford's runner. His three wins have been achieved in slowly run races and his jumping is still a shade novicey. Thornton Gate has won four of his last five starts but has been penalised accordingly. **Sohrab** impressed when quickening off a strong pace to foil Kingsfold Pet at Ascot and can defy top weight.

3:10: Question marks hang over several of these, not least Bas De Laine, arguably the form choice but who appears to save a bit for himself. Master Boston was a shade lucky to complete a treble at Wetherby nine days ago, but is the most likely to give his running. However, **File Concord** could be the value proposition. The 12-year-old has not raced for six weeks but goes well fresh and Jenny Pitman's string is in form.

3:40: Inchcailloch has disappointed on his last two runs and is worth opposing with his penalty. Trying Again does not look a natural chaser and has yet to come close to reproducing the standard of his hurdles form. Nicky Henderson invariably produces an Arkle candidate and **Sublime Fellow** is already being spoken of as Cheltenham Festival material. The six-year-old has schooled particularly well and will be well backed on his debut over fences.

Richard Evans

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Strawberry Angel
(12.30 Haydock Park)
Next best: Scotton Banks
(1.30 Haydock Park)

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.10 JET RULES (nap)
1.40 Challenger Du Luc
2.10 Rosina Mae
2.40 Warm Spell
3.10 File Concord
3.40 Trying Again
4.10 Spring Double

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.10 Sesame Seed.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.10 MIDDLESEX NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,022: 2m 5f) (13 runners)

101	0-21	HAUNTING MUSIC 115 (G) (R Miller) G Harwood 8-11-7	M Richards	—
102	10	CROWN EQUERRY 14 (BF,G) (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-11-4	P Carberry	90
103	40/33-12	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 56 (BF,S) (Mrs L Pegg) T Casey 7-11-4	R Dunwoody	96
104	0	CAMDEN WAY 15 (Ms M Madden) M Wilkinson 6-11-0	J F Titley	—
105	62	GLITTER ISLE 15 (BF) (Mrs T Pilkington) J Gifford 6-11-0	P Hide	96
106	4-652	JET RULES 14 (BF) (Jet Stationery Co) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0	A P McCoy	⊕
107	00-	KARIBU 107F (D Spenceley) J Bennett 5-11-0	C Maude	—
108	/6223/5-	KINGS CHARIOT 274 (Miss S Nugent) Lady Eliza Mays-Smith 9-11-0	J A McCarthy	—
109	4	PURPLE SPLASH 46 (Sir Christopher Wallord) P Makin 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	84
110		REFERENTIAL 462F (Mrs R Plummer) Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 5-11-0	D Leahy	—
111	242-2	WELL ARRANGED 63 (Mrs A-M Hamilton) R Akehurst 5-11-0	D Bridgwater	92
112	3-F	GLENBROOK FORT 54 (T Leadbeater) A J Wilson 7-10-9	L Harvey	—
113	P-5	PRIDE OF BRITAIN 40 (Pride of Britain Ltd) L Cottrell 7-10-9	Ms L Jefford	79

BETTING: 7-2 Flight Lieutenant, 9-2 Well Arranged, Haunting Music, 6-1 Jet Rules, 8-1 Crown Equerry, Purple Splash, 10-1 Glitter Isle, 25-1 others.

1995: EVEN FLOW 6-11-4 J Osborne (9-2) T Casey 8 ran

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Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield. C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

1.40 SUNBURY NOVICES CHASE
(£4,260: 3m) (9 runners)

201	31-2121	CHALLENGER DU LUC 19 (B,F,S) (J & J Securities Ltd) M Pipe 6-12-0	D Bridgwater	⊕
202	/212/31	CASTLE COURT 14 (S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 8-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	94
203	51	FELLOW COUNTRYMAN 16 (D,G,S) (A Wardall) K Bailey 9-11-10	R Dunwoody	80
204	6-621P4	SOLO GENT 15 (F,G) (A King) A Jones 7-11-10	S Curran	73
205	/005/F	CHUKKARIO 17 (R Cheetham) J Bosley 10-11-5	M Bosley	—
206	24F-443	CORLY SPECIAL 46 (V,F,G,S) (P Brazier) K Burke 9-11-5	P Carberry	79
207	52	HIGHLAND JACK 17 (G) (Mrs K Gibbons) A Turnell 6-11-5	S McNeill	71
208	P04/P-	PARLIAMENTARIAN 455 (A Wales) T Casey 7-11-5	D Gallagher	—
209	11F10/3	RIVER LOSSIE 17 (G,S) (C Brasher) C Egerton 7-11-5	J A McCarthy	70

BETTING: 6-4 Challenger Du Luc, 5-2 River Lossie, 5-1 Fellow Countryman, 6-1 Castle Court, 10-1 Highland Jack, 16-1 Solo Gent, 20-1 others

1995: SIMON JOSEPH 8-11-5 B Powell (5-1) T George 4 ran

2.10 BIC LADY SHAVER HANDICAP HURDLE
C4

(£4,013: 2m 5f) (15 runners)

301	34-4313	LUCKY BLUE 8 (G,S) (F Newman) N Thomson 9-12-0	J F Titley	98
302	/P10-52	ANGELO'S DOUBLE 7 (S) (J Henwood) R Buckler 8-11-12	Mr J Culloty (7)	92
303	310/21	SESAME SEED 42 (G,S) (R Tooth) Mrs J Cecil 8-11-12	T Kent	97
304	03425-0	FOREST FEATHER 14 (B,D,G) (D Nixon) C Weedon 8-11-9	B Fenton (5)	91
305	310-531	ROSINA MAE 64 (F,G) (P Winkworth) P Winkworth 7-11-8	L Aspell (5)	90
306	11-3141	EVER SMILE 77 (F) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 9-11-5	C Maude	89
307	230F0-5	HIGH GRADE 9 (G,S) (Miss S Wilton) Miss S Wilton 8-11-3	R Johnson (3)	95
308	013/202	NATIVE FIELD 7 (F,S) (R Whitel) J Fitzgerald 7-11-2	P Niven	96
309	P2-P516	PLUNDER BAY 19 (BF,S) (E & W Robins) N Henderson 5-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	93
310	30503-0	KHATIR 14 (B,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 5-11-1	D Bridgwater	88
311	24-1142	NAHRI 35 (BF,G,S) (Mrs S Adams) J Mackie 5-11-1	E Husband (3)	90
312	13-F5F2	JENZSOPH 17 (S) (Superset Two) P Hobbs 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	93
313	012-B32	KINO'S CROSS 14 (S) (N Harvey) A J Wilson 7-10-12	A P McCoy	94
314	5/P-1354	SQUIRE YORK 35 (V,F,S) (J Powell-Tuck) P Murphy 6-10-11	E Murphy	⊕
315	1322P6	KALASADI 8 (B,D,F) (G Lubson) Miss J Doyle 5-10-8	D Gallagher	91

BETTING: 4-1 Sesame Seed, 5-1 Native Field, 7-1 Angelo's Double, 8-1 Lucky Blue, 10-1 Ever Smile, Kino's Cross, Nahri, 12-1 Jenzsoph, 14-1 Plunder Bay, Rosina Mae, 16-1 High Grade, Squire York, 20-1 others

1995: ASK THE GOVERNOR 9-9-11 A P McCoy (5-1) G Balding 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

LUCKY BLUE beat Sohrab 4l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, soft) on penultimate start with ANGELO'S DOUBLE (7lb worse off) 24½l 5th and PLUNDER BAY (8lb better off) 6l 6th. SESAME SEED beat Top Cees 4l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). FOREST FEATHER short-head 2nd of 5 to Keep Me In Mind in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, firm) on penultimate start last term, with LUCKY BLUE (8lb worse off) 16l 4th. ROSINA MAE beat Jovani 8l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good to firm). EVER SMILE beat Blasket Hero 5l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm). NATIVE FIELD short-head 2nd of 17 to Trainglot in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). SQUIRE YORK about 4½l 4th of 17 to Celibate in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) with NATIVE FIELD (13lb worse off) about 5½l 9th.
Selection: LUCKY BLUE

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Newton Abbot (first race, 1 30), Southwell (AW, 1 40), Warwick (1 50)

TUESDAY: Leicester (1 30), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50), Market Rasen (1 40)

WEDNESDAY: Folkestone (1.20), Sedgefield (1.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 2 00)

THURSDAY: Huntingdon (1 20), Lingfield Park (AW, 1 40), Wincanton (1 30)

FRIDAY: Doncaster (1 00), Lingfield Park (1 10), Southwell (AW, 1 30)

SATURDAY: Ayr (BBC, 1 00), Cheltenham (C4, 1 10), Doncaster (C4, 1 00), Lingfield Park (AW, 1 40).

Flat meetings in bold

2.40 BIC RAZOR LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE
C4

(£17,125: 2m) (13 runners)

401	530-121	SOHRAB 7 (D,S) (Mrs J Richards) M Pipe 8-12-0	C Maude	95
402	5/23405-	ROYAL DERBI 390 (CD,F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 11-12-0	J F Titley	94
403	0212-54	CALL MY GUEST 64 (G,S) (D Clee) R Peacock 6-12-0	K Gaule (3)	93
404	0010-00	THINKING TWICE 49 (D,F,G) (E McGrath) N Henderson 7-11-13	M A Fitzgerald	89
405	132P-1D	SILVER GROOM 64 (D,BF,F,S) (Silver Darling Partners) R Akehurst 6-11-9	R Dunwoody	93
406	310005/	NIJMEGEN 8F (CD,S) (W Hancock) J Fitzgerald 8-11-8	P Niven	—
407	64-0461	FRICKLEY 9 (D,G,S) (R Ogden) F Murphy 10-11-5	P Carberry	98
408	012111	THORNTON GATE 14 (D,F,G,S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 7-11-5	L Wyer	⊕
409	12/	WARM SPELL 14F (D,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 6-11-2	A P McCoy	—
410	44221-	MELNIK 309 (S) (P Wiegand) G Harwood 5-10-10	S McNeill	91
411	25/0-305	ALBEMINE 35 (D,BF,F) (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 7-10-10	T Kent	93
412	11-1	GROOVING 53 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 7-10-10	P Hide	93
413	/01221/	HEDGEHOPPER 617 (D,G,S) (T Davis) C Weedon 8-10-2	M Richards	—

BETTING: 11-4 Thornton Gate, 4-1 Grooving, 5-1 Frickley, 7-1 Silver Groom, 10-1 Albemine, Nijmegen, Sohrab, 14-1 Thinking Twice, 20-1 Warm Spell, 25-1 Call My Guest, Melnik, Royal Derbi, 50-1 Hedgehopper

1995: TRYING AGAIN 7-11-10 J Osborne (4-5 fav) D Gandolfo 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOHRAB beat Kingsfold Pet 1½l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). ROYAL DERBI 22l 5th of 8 to Trying Again in handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). CALL MY GUEST 20½l 5th of 15 to Jibber The Kibber in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. SILVER GROOM beat Mister Drum 3l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to firm). FRICKLEY beat Noyan 7l in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). THORNTON GATE completed treble beat Slompin 5l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). GROOVING completed treble beat Pampillo 8l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft).
Selection: SOHRAB

3.10 FULWELL HANDICAP CHASE
C4

(£8,169: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

501	4F11-P3	KING CREDO 50 (F,G,S) (J Bolam) S Woodman 11-11-10	Mr J Culloty (7)	88
502	34/2242	BAS DE LAINE 43 (B,CD,F,G) (R Bids Ltd) O Sherwood 10-11-9	M Richards	94
503	2-42111	MASTER BOSTON 9 (D,G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 8-11-7	L Wyer	93
504	12-333P	SEVEN OF DIAMONDS 7 (D,F,G,S) (T Keeping) R Alner 11-11-6	R Dunwoody	92
505	3114-12	FILE CONCORD 43 (D,BF,G,S) (Jet Stationery Co) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-1	A P McCoy	94
506	41P-4F2	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 9 (G,S) (W Hancock) J Fitzgerald 10-10-13	P Niven	93
507	1524-40	SCOLE 7 (D,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 11-10-1	K Gaule (3)	⊕
508	0122-15	TOO PLUSH 15 (D,BF,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 7-10-0	L Harvey	86

Long handicap: Too Plush 9-12

BETTING: 9-4 Master Boston, 4-1 Bas De Laine, 5-1 File Concord, Too Plush, 6-1 Newlands-General, 8-1 King Credo, 10-1 Seven Of Diamonds, 33-1 Scole

1995: BIBENDUM 9-11-6 Peter Hobbs (7-2) R Waley-Cohen 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING CREDO 26l 3rd of 4 to Lonesome Glory in handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good). BAS DE LAINE 6l 2nd of 6 to Go Universal in limited handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) with NEWLANDS-GENERAL (4lb better off) 24l 4th. MASTER BOSTON completed treble beat NEWLANDS-GENERAL (6lb better off) 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). SEVEN OF DIAMONDS best recent effort 3½l 3rd of 10 to Coonawara in limited handicap chase over course and distance (good). FILE CONCORD beat Really A Rascal 3l in 9-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. TOO PLUSH beat Rectory Garden 4l in 10-runner handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: MASTER BOSTON

Blinkered first time

CATTERICK BRIDGE: 1 15 Flowing River 1 45 Weaver George LINGFIELD PARK: 3 25 Tatahhus 4 00 Mac's Taxi

3.40 BIC RAZOR NOVICES CHASE
C4

(£4,788: 2m) (6 runners)

601	254-144	INCHCAILLOCH 8 (CD,BF,G,S) (F Carter) J King 7-11-7	G Upton	⊕
602	54U2-2F	AAL EL AAL 17 (G,S) (Six Horse Power) P Hobbs 9-11-3	A P McCoy	—
603	11P06-F	GIVUS A CALL 35 (S) (T Benfield, W Brown) J Gifford 6-11-3	P Hide	—
604	F405/00-	GRANVILLE AGAIN 312 (F,G,S) (F Scarth) M Pipe 10-11-3	D Bridgwater	—
605	2130-20	SUBLIME FELLOW 49 (G) (Lady Goldsmith) N Henderson 6-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	—
606	1220-42	TRYING AGAIN 38 (BF,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 8-11-3	R Dunwoody	96

BETTING: 5-2 Trying Again, 11-4 Inchcailloch, 5-1 Givus A Call, Aal El Aal, 6-1 Sublime Fellow, 8-1 Granville Again.

1995: HIGH BARON 8-11-11 G McCourt (1-2 fav) R Alner 2 ran

FORM FOCUS

INCHCAILLOCH best effort this season beat Certainly Strong 1l in 9-runner novice chase over course and distance (good).
AAL EL AAL fell at 3rd in 10-runner novice chase won by Air Shot at Lingfield (2m, soft). Previously 7l 2nd of 9 to Sohrab in National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). GIVUS A CALL in touch when fell at 8th in the 8-runner grade II Noel Novice Chase won by Senor El Betrutti at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good). GRANVILLE AGAIN, top-class hurdler at best, 61l 12th of 14 to Alderbrook in the grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). SUBLIME FELLOW 4l 2nd of 11 to Non Vintage in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. TRYING AGAIN 5l 2nd of 13 to Nemuro in novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good).
Selection: TRYING AGAIN

4.10 FOXHILLS STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,581: 2m) (22 runners)

1	1	JOHN DRUMM 42 (G) (A Jenkins) P Webber 5-11-12	Mr P Scott (7)	—
2		BELLDORAN (Mrs A Taylor) C Jones 5-11-5	G Upton	—
3		DEACON'S FOLLY (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 6-11-5	J R Kavanagh	—
4		GIPSY GEOF (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-5	K Gaule (3)	—
5	20	GLAMANGLITZ 35 (BF) (Mrs J Marton) P Dalton 6-11-5	A P McCoy	—
6		JACK GALLAGHER (Gallagher Materials Ltd) Miss B Sanders 5-11-5	M Richards	—
7		MR C-I-P (Coventry Industrial Pipework Ltd) K Bridgwater 5-11-5	D Bridgwater	—
8		MYLINK 58 (S Constable) D Nicholson 6-11-5	R Johnson (3)	—
9		PRINCE RICO (Mrs D Whiteman) J Gifford 5-11-5	L Aspell (5)	—
10		ROYAL EVENT (T Whatley) D Gandolfo 5-11-5	R Dunwoody	—
11		SAFEGLIDE (P Betts (Holdings) Ltd) J Gifford 6-11-5	P Hide	—
12		SPRING DOUBLE (Mrs L Berryman) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5	C Maude	—
13		THE LAND AGENT (Mrs H Bare) J Mullins 5-11-5	S Curran (3)	—
14		BROWN ROCCHETTO (Mrs S Smith) Mrs M Jones 6-11-0	J Cooke (7)	—
15		CURRA MINSTRAL (J Ryan) J Long 6-11-0	Mr J Ryan	—
16		MAGGIE MARNE (Mrs M Walters) R Dickin 6-11-0	R Bellamy	—
17		ROSEHALL (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 5-11-0	G Hogan (3)	—
18		COLONEL BLAZER (T Shrimpton) Miss H Knight 4-10-7	G F Ryan (5)	—
19		GAF (G Farndon) R Woodhouse 4-10-7	L Wyer	—
20		SPLENDID THYNE (J Galvanon) R Hoad 4-10-7	P Carberry	—
21		LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 4-10-2	Sophie Mitchell (5)	—
22		THE SUBSTITUTE (Heart Of The South Racing) R Curtis 4-10-2	D Morris	—

BETTING: 7-2 Mylink, 6-1 Prince Rico, John Drumm, 7-1 Spring Double, 8-1 Colonel Blazer, 10-1 Safeglide, 20-1 others

1995: WISLEY WONDER 5-11-5 Mr M Rimell (4-1) N Twiston-Davies 13 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Gandolfo	4	11	36.4	P Hide	7	32	21.9
R Alner	5	18	27.8	R Dunwoody	22	104	21.2
N Henderson	17	65	26.2	M A Fitzgerald	13	62	21.0
M Pipe	14	60	23.3	A P McCoy	3	15	20.0
O Sherwood	10	44	22.7	M Richards	5	38	13.2
K Bailey	9	46	19.6	J Kavanagh	3	24	12.5
D Nicholson	12	63	19.0	S McNeill	4	38	10.5

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4/1 Grooving
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9/1 Albemine
9/1 Sohrab
14/1 Nijmegan
14/1 Warm Spell
16/1 Melnik
16/1 Thinking Twice
25/1 Call My Guest
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HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Putty Road
1.00 Atours
1.30 Lonesome Glory
2.00 Nahthen Lad
2.30 Three Philosophers
3.00 Sound Reveille
3.30 Dictum

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
12.30 SIMPSON.

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.30 PREMIER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE
BBC1

(Grade II: £12,740: 2m 7f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	5P6112-	MUDAHIM 346 (CD,F,S) [illegible]	W Marston	91
2	1113-22	PUTTY ROAD 35 (BF,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson [illegible]	A Maguire	79
3	2-13134	STRAWBERRY ANGEL 35 (F,S) [illegible]	Blythe Miller	69
4	0/411/P	BALASANI 30 (F,G,S) [illegible] M Pipe [illegible]	M Dwyer	—
5	PP4-65-I	BELVEDERIAN 35 (G,S) [illegible]	C O'Dwyer	79
6	11P/111	BETTER TIMES AHEAD 43 (G,S) [illegible] G Richards [illegible]	A Dobbin	84
7	23542-1	COQUI LANE 10 (S) [illegible] 9-11-3	F Perratt	58
8	11110/	SEEKIN CASH 674 (S) (Mrs D Thompson) [illegible] 7-11-3	J Osborne	—
9	614/43-3	SIMPSON 56 (CD,F,G,S) [illegible]	T Grantham	⊕
10	12021-P	TADS 7 (F,S) [illegible] N Twiston-Davies 6-11-3	C Llewellyn	70
11	06P-430	TOP SPIN 8 (F,G,S) [illegible]	J Railton	80

BETTING: 11-4 Better Times Ahead, 4-1 Putty Road, 5-1 Simpson, 6-1 Strawberry Angel, Seekin Cash, 10-1 Mudahim, 12-1 Belvederian, 14-1 others

1995: MUDAHIM [illegible] 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUDAHIM 5l 2nd of 7 to Her Honour in limited handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, heavy). PUTTY ROAD 4l 2nd of 11 to Silver Wedge in grade I Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot (3m 1f 110yd, good) with TOP SPIN (7lb better off) 5l 3rd and BELVEDERIAN (7lb better off) neck 4th. STRAWBERRY ANGEL about 17l 4th of 9 to Pridwell in conditions hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). BALASANI pulled after 11th in 8-runner novice chase won by St Mellion Fairway at Lingfield (3m, heavy). Previously short-head 2nd of 14 to Avro Anson (placings reversed) in Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) with SIMPSON 4l 4th and SEEKIN CASH 72l 11th, March 1994. BETTER TIMES AHEAD completed treble, beat [illegible] in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good). COQUI LANE beat [illegible] in [illegible]-runner conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at [illegible] (2m 2f, soft). SEEKIN CASH [illegible] beat [illegible] 10l in [illegible] novice hurdle at [illegible] (3m 5f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start, Feb 1994. SIMPSON neck and [illegible] 3rd of [illegible] to [illegible] Leader in grade [illegible] Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft) with TOP SPIN (4lb worse off) 7l 4th. TOP SPIN [illegible] of 14 to Treasure Again in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good to soft).
Selection: SIMPSON

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	33	112	29.5	G Bradley	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
C Brooks	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	C Llewellyn	[illegible]	35	22.9
D Nicholson	10	38	[illegible]	J Lower	[illegible]	18	[illegible]
J Fitzgerald	13	56	[illegible]	A Dobbin	9	[illegible]	21.4
N Twiston-Davies	13	50	26.0	A Maguire	[illegible]	49	20.4
M Pipe	27	121	22.3	M Dwyer	[illegible]	110	[illegible]

1.00 HAYDOCK PARK CHAMPION HURDLE TRIAL
BBC1

(Grade II: £12,620. 2m) (6 runners)

1	50-1122	ATOURS 14 (D,F,G,S) (Oh So Risky Partners) D Elsworth 8-11-10	P Holley	⊕
2	13P621	PRIDWELL 35 (D,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 6-11-7	J Lower	84
3	234501	AMBER VALLEY 3 (D,S) (Berkshire Components) D Williams 5-11-3	B Powell	51
4	126P24-	MOORISH 406 (D,S) (A Fitzpatrick) J White 6-11-3	A Maguire	90
5	22220F	NEW INN 9 (D,F) (I Stewart) S Gollings 5-11-3	A Dobbin	67
6	115F-12	MYSILV 35 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Elite Racing) C Egerton 6-11-2	J Osborne	98

BETTING: 7-4 Mysilv, 2-1 Atours, 5-2 Pridwell, 10-1 Moorish, 33-1 New Inn, 50-1 Amber Valley

1995: RELKEEL 6-11-10 A Maguire (4-6 fav) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

ATOURS 7l 2nd of 6 to Collier Bay in limited handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Previously 1½l 2nd to Large Action in Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle (2m 4f, good). PRIDWELL beat MYSILV (5lb better off) 4l in 8-runner conditions hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). AMBER VALLEY beat Kindakoola 5l in 19-runner selling novice hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). MOORISH about 3½l 4th of 8 to Large Action in Bonusprint Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft).
NEW INN best recent effort 7l 2nd of 7 to Nahla in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft) with AMBER VALLEY (20lb better off) 9l 4th. MYSILV beat Hi Handsome 7l in 4-runner conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. Last season finished about 9½l 5th of 14 to Alderbrook in Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft).
Selection: MYSILV

1.30 PETER MARSH CHASE
BBC1

(Limited handicap. Grade II. £18,570: 3m) (6 runners)

1	21-1111	LONESOME GLORY 50 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs W Jeffords) C Brooks 8-11-10	Blythe Miller	92
2	13-2111	SCOTTON BANKS 9 (C,D,G,S) (I Bray) M H Easterby 7-11-6	R Garritty	⊕
3	P:101F-3	TARTAN TYRANT 9 (CD,G,S) [illegible] G Richards 10-10-13	A Dobbin	92
4	1300-33	GARRISON SAVANNAH 42 (C,D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 13-10-13	W Marston	94
5	UP-11F1	SMITH'S BAND 14 (CD,G,S) (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-7	R Farrant	97
6	U431-44	WELL BRIEFED 8 (D,F,G,S) (P Jones) R Buckler 9-10-7	B Powell	87

Long handicap: Smith's Band 10-7, Well Briefed 9-11

BETTING: 9-4 Lonesome Glory, 5-2 Scotton Banks, 3-1 Smith's Band, 6-1 Tartan Tyrant, 12-1 Garrison Savannah, 16-1 Well Briefed

1995: EARTH SUMMIT 7-10-4 T Jenks (7-4) N Twiston-Davies 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

LONESOME GLORY completed hat-trick when beat Egypt Mill Prince 11l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good).
SCOTTON BANKS completed treble beat Lo Stregone 10l in 8-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to soft) with TARTAN TYRANT (7lb better off) 10l 3rd. TARTAN TYRANT best effort last season beat Cache Fleur 5½l in 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (3m, soft). GARRISON SAVANNAH 41l 3rd of 5 to One Man in conditions chase over course and distance (good) with WELL BRIEFED (2lb better off) 1¼l 4th. SMITH'S BAND beat Toogood To Be True neck in 10-runner handicap chase over course and distance (soft).
Selection: TARTAN TYRANT (nap)

2.00 IRLAM NOVICES CHASE
(£3,779. 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	22/04F-1	EVEN BLUE 38 (D,S) (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 8-11-10	D McCain	83
2	606-121	NAHTHEN LAD 14 (D,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10	W Marston	⊕
3	311112-	BILLYGOAT GRUFF 305 (G,S) (F Cooper) D Nicholson 7-11-4	A Maguire	—
4	005-3F2	CHIEF RAIDER 31 (G,S) (J Wade) J Wade 8-11-4	G Bradley	89
5	1PP02-3	MONDURATIC 15 (S) (Leading Star Racing) Mrs S Smith 7-11-4	J Burke	71
6	0660P-2	PARSONS BOY 35 (B Ridge) G Richards 7-11-4	A Dobbin	81

BETTING: 5-4 Nahthen Lad, 11-8 Billygoat Gruff, 8-1 Even Blue, 16-1 Parsons Boy, 20-1 Chief Raider, 25-1 Mondurotic

1995: SWEET DUKE 8-11-10 T Jenks (11-4) N Twiston-Davies 7 ran

2.30 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,696: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	FF53-10	THREE PHILOSOPHERS 52 (BF,G) T Forster 7-11-12	C Llewellyn	73
2		BOLD ELECT 10F (G Lowe) E Alston 8-11-6	T Dascombe (5)	—
3	0	GIVE IT LALOY 54 (Mackinnon Mills) L Lungo 6-11-6	F Perratt	—
4	00-25	MANVULANE 37 (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 6-11-6	D McCain	61
5	2230/0	NITRE 14 (D Davies) G Jones 8-11-6	B Powell	54
6	3-P34	POTTER'S BAY 15 (Mrs J Potter) D Nicholson 7-11-6	A Maguire	79
7	62-	RARE OCCURANCE 390 (R Harris) R Dickin 6-11-6	D Meredith	⊕
8	0000	ASHCAL LADY 3 (S Walker) T Wall 6-11-1	S Joynes (7)	—
9		FLAMING HOPE (J Hope) C Parker 6-11-1	Mr A Parker	—
10	46P-40	MERRY NOELLE 49 (Mrs D Scott) E Owen 6-11-1	R Davis	57

BETTING: 7-4 Three Philosophers, 5-2 Potter's Bay, 5-1 Rare Occurance, 10-1 Bold Elect, 12-1 Manvulane, Merry Noelle, 14-1 Flaming Hope, 20-1 others.

1995: NAHTHEN LAD 6-11-11 W Marston (100-30) Mrs J Pitman 12 ran

3.00 GARSWOOD HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,077: 2m) (5 runners)

1	1U40-P5	UNCLE ERNIE 7 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 11-12-0	M Dwyer	⊕
2	1121-4F	CLAY COUNTY 64 (D,BF,F,G,S) (County Set) M Hammond 11-11-12	A Maguire	97
3	1111P1-	SOUND REVEILLE 310 (D,G,S) (Mrs G Abecassis) C Brooks 8-11-12	G Bradley	90
4	665P-24	SNITTON LANE 42 (D,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 10-10-13	A Dobbin	95
5	35-2335	CIRCULATION 35 (CD,G,S) (J Singleton) D McCain 10-10-0	D Walsh (5)	60

Long handicap: Circulation 7-0

BETTING: 6-4 Sound Reveille, 7-4 Uncle Ernie, 3-1 Clay County, 14-1 Snitton Lane, 50-1 Circulation

1995: THUMBS UP 9-11-8 M Fitzgerald (5-1) N Henderson 5 ran

3.30 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,676: 2m) (20 runners)

1	1-	AGISTMENT 299 (G) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 5-11-13	M Dwyer	—
2	1	DICTUM 59 (S) (Mrs R Humphries) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-13	Mr M Rimell	—
3	12	FOREST IVORY 37 (BF,S) (Old Foresters) D Nicholson 5-11-13	R Massey (5)	—
4	1	SWANBISTER 35 (G) (D Greig) L Lungo 6-11-13	F Perratt	—
5		BETTER THAN BILLS (J Chinn) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-6	S Joynes (7)	—
6		CAPTAIN CHAOS (Mrs K Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 5-11-6	J Burke	—
7		FARADAY (D McCain) D McCain 6-11-6	D McCain	—
8		GUNNER SID (Mrs M Price) B Preece 5-11-6	R Davis	—
9		MAN-OF-THE-WORLD (Mrs C Hooley) K Bailey 6-11-6	J Osborne	—
10	0	MARTIN DE PORRES 35 (M Pipe) M Pipe 6-11-6	J Lower	—
11		PRIMITIVE MAN (B Temple) B Temple 6-11-6	A Dobbin	—
12	0	PRU'S PROFILES 66 (Exterior Profiles) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-6	C Llewellyn	—
13		SCOTTON GREEN (I Bray) M H Easterby 5-11-6	W Marston	—
14	2	SHALLAGAMBLE 16 (Mrs E Beresford) M Pipe 6-11-6	Jamie Evans	—
15		SILLY MONEY (Mrs J Conway) M H Easterby 5-11-6	R Garritty	—
16		SPLINT (K Guess-Sacrau) J Old 6-11-6	T Grantham	—
17		NELL VALLEY (Mrs J Thornton) C Brooks 5-11-1	G Bradley	—
18		LOTHIAN COMMANDER (R Bellamy) D McCain 4-10-8	A Maguire	—
19		MOONLIGHT VENTURE (R Smalley) E Alston 4-10-8	T Dascombe (5)	—
20		MOLLIE SILVERS (J Cresswell) J Cresswell 4-10-3	W McFarland	—

BETTING: 7-2 Forest Ivory, 4-1 Dictum, 9-2 Shallagamble, 6-1 Swanbister, 8-1 Agistment, 10-1 Better Than Bills, 12-1 others

1995: GO INFORMAL 4-10-12 M Dwyer (8-1) J Jefferson 17 ran

☐ Sound Reveille, the winner of last year's Grand Annual Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, has been backed for the Queen Mother Champion Chase. The Charlie Brooks-trained gelding, who runs in the Garswood Handicap Chase at Haydock today, is now 20-1 from 25-1 with Ladbrokes.

أمكن من الأصل

Boardman surrenders Olympic pursuit title

By Peter Bryan

CHRIS BOARDMAN, Britain's Olympic 4,000 metres track pursuit cycling champion, who today starts a week's intensive training session with his Gan team colleagues in the Pyrenees, confirmed yesterday that he would not defend his Games title in Atlanta in July.

"The Tour de France ends on July 21 and the qualifying round of the pursuit starts in Atlanta three days later. There's no way I can meet that schedule," he said.

This year's Tour will be Boardman's third. He took the overall lead before retiring in 1994, crashed out of last year's race on the opening day's time-trial and still has pins in his right ankle, broken in two places — together with his left wrist — in a spectacular 40mph downhill skid.

In a punishing but unpublicised winter training routine, often in the snow, Boardman has achieved a degree of fitness that, for the time of year, satisfies him. This week, in Britain, he covered 100 miles of hilly roads at an average speed in excess of 25mph. He starts his international calendar with the tour of the Mediterranean (February 14 to 18) as the Gan team leader but, unlike last year, will divide his season into two, easing off for three weeks between late April and May before the build-up for the Tour de France.

Although he misses the Olympic pursuit, Boardman is pre-selected for the 52km road time-trial event in Atlanta, when he is likely to take on Miguel Induráin, the world champion, who has won the Tour de France for the past five years.

Mason saves Britain from defeat

Great Britain	3
India	3

From Sydney Friskin in Barcelona

GREAT BRITAIN were grateful for a point from their opening match in the men's Olympic qualifying hockey tournament at the Polo Club here yesterday, two fine saves from Simon Mason denying India victory in the closing stages.

Apparently coping well in the absence of Russell Garcia, who has withdrawn from the tournament because of illness, and Julian Halls, who was declared unfit yesterday morning with a back injury, Britain were 3-1 up at halftime. However, India fought back strongly and finished on the offensive, just as they had begun.

Results 45

They had opened the scoring, in the fifth minute, Sanjeev Kumar converting a short corner after a brief tussle inside the circle. Within three minutes, India forced another short corner, which broke down for the want of a plan.

Britain, with Chris Mayer prominent on the right wing, retaliated with a strong counter-attack which led to the first of their five short corners, in the ninth minute. Calum Giles kissed the blade of his stick before the ritual began but his shot, though well directed, was saved on the line by the full back, Aldrin.

Giles had better luck from Britain's third short corner, awarded after Pargat Singh, the India captain, had been penalised for lifting the ball in the circle. This time Giles scored with a cleverly placed shot.

The India defence was caught off guard in the thirtieth minute, with Mayer picking up a through-pass from Fordham and finding himself unmarked. Nick Thompson, receiving Mayer's cross-pass, quickly transferred the ball to Robert Thompson, who promptly put Britain ahead. Almost on half-time India, whose defence had begun to look a little ragged, conceded a fifth short corner and Giles again put his expertise to good use.

India looked dejected at the start of the second half, but gained confidence as the outside right, Mukesh Kumar, and the centre forward, Pillay, ran skilfully into the open spaces. In the 54th minute, a poor clearance by Soma Singh, the Britain left back, was picked up by Mukesh Kumar, who raced through on the right and scored from a difficult angle to bring India back into the game. Two minutes later, Mukesh Kumar set up a chance for the unmarked Pillay, who beat Mason's challenge to level the score.

Although Britain continued their policy of attack, India dominated the game in the closing minutes and Britain had reason to thank Mason.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Mason (Reading), J Wyatt (Reading), S Singh (Southgate), G Fordham (Hounslow), K Takher (Cannock), S Hazlitt (Hounslow), C Mayer (Cannock), J Shaw (Southgate), R Thompson (Hounslow), J Laslett (Teddington, captain), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians). Subs used: C Giles (Havant), D Hall (Guildford).

INDIA: A Subbiah, P Singh (captain), A Aldrin, H Singh, R Nabi, S Ahmed, M Kumar, B Singh Saini, D Pillay, S Kumar, G Ferreira. Subs used: R Singh, B Singh Dhillon.

Umpires: S Deo (Sp), P Vanbeneden (Bel)

☐ Holland, the favourites to qualify, opened with a 5-1 victory over Canada, with Remco van Wijk and Stephan Veen, the wingers, scoring twice. Spain also started with a victory, but only after falling behind to Belorussia. In Malaysia's 2-1 victory over Belgium, Alexandre de Chaffoy, the Belgian centre forward, broke his leg.

MIKE COOPER/ALLSPORT

Nick Thompson, centre, takes on the India defence during Britain's 3-3 draw in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona yesterday

IN BRIEF

Portuguese support for Modahl

THE Portuguese Government yesterday rejected a request by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to review urine samples of Diane Modahl, the Great Britain middle-distance runner, who was banned for four years after testing positive for drugs in 1994.

Dismayed by the British Athletic Federation's verdict to clear Modahl on appeal, the IAAF sent the case to arbitration and the doping commission that looked into it requested a third test, but the Portuguese Government has backed a ruling, by the National Anti-Doping Council, that no third test would be carried out for technical, scientific and juridical reasons.

Torrance adrift

Golf: Sam Torrance slipped out of contention for the Malaysian Open tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after a second round of 76. He is six shots adrift of Lee Porter, of the United States.

☐ Paul Goydos, the last man on the 1995 money-winners' list to keep his PGA Tour card, leads after two rounds of the Bob Hope Classic.

Campbell strikes

Cricket: Colin Campbell claimed three for 12 to reduce Mashonaland Districts to 49 for three at Goromonzi Country Club in Zimbabwe after England Under-19 were all out for 225.

Bout postponed

Boxing: The planned contest between George Foreman and Michael Moorer, scheduled for Madison Square Garden on February 29, has been postponed.

Elas Image to foil title pretenders

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

THERE will be a keen sense of anticipation at Leopardstown tomorrow, when Danoli and Montelado put their Cheltenham credentials on the line in the AIG Europe Champion Hurdle.

Danoli is making his first appearance since seriously injuring a leg at Aintree last April while Montelado, second favourite in the Champion Hurdle ante-post lists, has not raced over hurdles since last March.

Tom Treacy, 20, takes over on Danoli from Charlie Swan, who is claimed to ride Hotel Minella in the race and he is under no illusions about winning tomorrow. "Danoli is only 60 per cent fit and Tom Foley says it will be a miracle if he wins. What matters is that he comes back in one piece and then we can carry on with him," Treacy, who rode Danoli twice as a novice, said.

With Richard Dunwoody committed to Balawhar, Adrian Maguire rides Montelado for the first time and will keep the ride for Cheltenham.

That is Montelado's main objective and, while trainer Pat Flynn has the horse in good shape, experience shows Montelado is best in the spring and on better ground than he will have to deal with tomorrow.

With those doubts surrounding the big two it should pay to look elsewhere for tomorrow's winner. The two English runners, Collier Bay (Jamie Osborne) and Absalom's Lady (Tony McCoy), will handle the soft ground and, of the two, the improving Collier Bay may prove best. But the Irish four-year-old Elas Image looks the type to surprise them all.

Unbeaten in three starts over hurdles, the filly is regarded as a Triumph Hurdle prospect by her trainer, Michael O'Brien, who sent out Shawiya to win the Triumph in 1993.

O'Brien said yesterday: "She is a better filly than Shawiya was at this stage of the year. She handles the soft ground better and four-year-olds have a good record in the AIG. She gets a good break at the weights and, with the doubts surrounding the other horses, now may be the right time to take them on."

In the Baileys Arkle Cup Ventana Canyon can reverse previous placings with Double Symphony. Over this course last month the Edward O'Grady-trained gelding possibly hit the front too soon and allowed Double Symphony to get back at him. Ridden with more restraint, Ventana Canyon can book his place for the Arkle at Cheltenham.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

GOING: YIELDING TO SOFT

2.45 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade I: £34,000: 2m) (11 runners)

1	11/0	BALAWHAR 21 (CD,S) (M Tabor) E O'Grady 6-11-10	R Dunwoody	–
2	/4414-1	COLLIER BAY 15 (D,S) (W Sturt) J Old (GB) 6-11-10	J Osborne	–
3	/11231-	DANOLI 288 (C,D,F,G,S) (D O'Neill) T Foley 8-11-10	T Treacy	–
4	45/0-0	DESTRIERO 8 (CD,G,S) (N Furlong) N Furlong 10-11-10	C O'Dwyer	–
5	12113-0	HOTEL MINELLA 21 (C,D,BF,G,S) (J Nallen) A O'Brien 9-11-10	C Swan	–
6	121/0-	MONTELADO 108F (D,F,G,S) (F Hannon) P Flynn 9-11-10	A Maguire	–
7	223-0	CLIFDON FOG 117 (J Hill) J Bolger 5-11-6	–	–
8	1-65265	SHAIHAR 8 (D,G,S) (D Sharkey) M J P O'Brien 5-11-6	K O'Brien	–
9	226-35P	ABSALOM'S LADY 15 (D,G,S) (Wellcombe Manor RS) D Elsworth (GB) 8-11-5	A P McCoy	–
10	231120	SAMBARA 8 (D,F,G,S) (Danure Syndicate) W Mullins 5-11-1	P Carberry	–
11	111	ELAS IMAGE 21 (CD,G) (K Noonan) M J P O'Brien 4-10-5	T Rudd	–

BETTING: 7-4 Montelado, 5-1 Collier Bay, Danoli, 6-1 Absalom's Lady, Elas Image, 7-1 Hotel Minella, 12-1 Balawhar, 25-1 others.

1995: FORTUNE AND FAME 8-11-10 M Dwyer (1-2 fav) D Weld 5 ran

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Dartnall can return in style

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

FOLLOWERS of point-to-pointing do not like travelling for their sport so can count themselves lucky in being spoilt for choice.

With 118 venues across Britain (compared to 44 professional jumping courses), there is little need to clock up the miles — but today is an exception. Runners from Southern and South West England, Wales, the Midlands and the North West will head for Barbury Castle in Wiltshire for the **Point-to-Point Owners and Riders Club** fixture. The National Festival, held in Leicestershire in the spring, would cherish such far-reaching patronage.

Handily placed near the M4 and at a time of year when the ground is reasonable, the PPORC is a festival in its own right and, with just one other meeting this weekend, competition to attract runners is not strong.

For Victor Dartnall the event marks a return to his former home. He was farm manager when Barbury Castle racecourse was resurrected after a 30-year gap in 1992, but left that job two years later and headed to North Devon to set up a livery yard.

Chilipour, the winner of six races last season, gave Dartnall a flying start, his four-horse string of 12 months ago is now eight and an all-weather gallop has been installed.

Wolf Winter, a close second to What A Hand at Larkhill, showed the stable is again in good form and while Chilipour misses his engagement today, Phar Too Touchy tackles the novice riders' race with Rebecca Francis in the saddle. "The mare has been winging up the gallop," Dartnall said.

Polly Curling nominated Highleeze and Calling Wild as two horses she was looking forward to partnering this season, and their presence in the final two races at Barbury should make it a good day for the women's champion.

Rupert Wakley had a good day last week, with a 12,147-1 treble on Julie Read's horses at Cottenham. Wakley, 21, has four rides for the same stable at Higham today, including Shimshek in the open, but do not expect such generous odds. An assistant to Newmarket trainer Michael Bell, Wakley is the son of former jockey Nigel, runner-up on Royal Toss in the 1972 Gold Cup.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: PPORC, Barbury Castle, four miles south of Swindon (first race 11.30); Waveney Harriers, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (12.00).

Curling: double chance

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.25 Don't Drop Bombs. 1.55 Hannah's Usher. 2.25 Princely Sound. 2.55 Distinct Beauty. 3.25 Bentico. 4.00 Duke Valentino.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.25 Badger Bay. 2.55 DISTINCT BEAUTY (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-1M 2F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.25 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,786: 1m 4f) (14 runners)

1	1/0	CASPIAN BELUGA 14 (CD,F,G,S) S Knight 8-11-7	J Durkan 11
2	125-	FATHER DAN 50 (C,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 7-11-7	M Armytage 6
3	230-	GOLD BLADE 127 (C,D,F,G) J Pearce 7-11-7	Mrs L Pearce 9
4	430-	TOSKANO 15J D Williams 4-11-0	Miss S Higgins (5) 7
5	550-	MONTONE 36 (F,G,S) J Jenkins 6-10-6	Dr M Mannish (5) 1
6	00-0	LEGAL DRAMA 16 P McBride 4-10-5	V Coogan (5) 10
7	0-44	ROYAL CIRCUS 7 (C,D,F,G) P Webber 7-10-0	Mrs S Bosley 14
8	5-42	PARKLIFE 5 (BF) P Haslam 4-9-10	Mrs D Kettlewell 5
9	0-20	DON'T DROP BOMBS 7 (V,CD,F,G) D Thom 7-9-9	Miss J Feilden 13
10	300-	FORGETFUL 39 D Burchell 7-9-7	Miss E J Jones (5) 12
11	4-46	SWYNFORD FLYER 7 (F,G) J A Harris 7-9-7	V Lukaniuk (5) 3
12	0/0-	LADY WOODSTOCK 70J Miss A Embiricos 4-9-6	C J McEntee (5) 4
13	3-43	ALPINE STORM 5 M Usher 4-9-0	Mrs A Usher (5) 8
14	300-	VERRO 46J (E,G,S) K Bishop 9-9-0	Miss A Purdy (5) 2

4-1 Parklife, 9-2 Alpine Storm, 5-1 Royal Circus, 6-1 Father Dan, 7-1 Gold Blade, 8-1 Don't Drop Bombs, 10-1 Swynford Flyer, 12-1 others

1.55 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES (£3,203: 6f) (14)

1	5-64	HANNAH'S USHER 5 (F,G) C Murray 4-8-7	M Tebbutt 7
2	01-0	LITTLE IBNR 17 (C,D,F,G) P Evans 5-9-7	R Cochrane 6
3	-126	PAGEBOY 2 (CD,BF,F,G) P Haslam 7-9-7	J Fortune 1
4	0-65	MILOS 2 (G,D,F,G) T Naughton 5-9-3	T Ashley (7) 10
5	040-	SEA-DEER 176 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-1	A Culhane 2
6	24-4	SPEEDY-CLASSIC 16 (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-1	S Drowne (3) 8
7	0-55	ULTRA BEET 9 (V,C,D,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-1	J Weaver 13
8	050-	LONELY VIGIL 126 K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-12	G Carter 14
9	65-1	LIFT BOY 9 (C,D,F,G) A Moore 7-8-7	Candy Morris 3
10	40-4	RESPECTABLE JONES 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 10-8-7	M Wigham 9
11	0-04	TYRIAN PURPLE 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) T Naughton 8-8-5	J Quinn 4
12	00-4	ASSIGNMENT 14 (CD,F,G) J Long 10-8-3	T Field (7) 5
13	00-0	JUSTINIANUS 9 (B,D,G,S) A Hermans (Bel) 4-8-3	D Sweeney (7) 11
14	0-65	SUPERLAD 9 (F,G) A Hermans (Bel) 4-8-0	F Norton 12

4-1 Pageboy, 5-1 Sea-Deer, Little Ibnr, 6-1 Hannah's Usher, 7-1 Speedy Classic, 8-1 Milos, 10-1 Lift Boy, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Barron, 7 winners from 29 runners, 24.1%; K McAuliffe, 9 from 47, 19.1%; Miss G Kelleway, 9 from 50, 18.0%; M Johnston, 32 from 191, 16.8%; W O'Gorman, 27 from 161, 16.8%; R O'Sullivan, 42 from 253, 16.6%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 53 winners from 228 rides, 23.2%; Emma O'Gorman, 31 from 158, 19.6%; J Fortune, 4 from 22, 18.2%; M Rimmer, 9 from 51, 17.6%; R Cochrane, 42 from 240, 17.5%; D McKeown, 18 from 107, 16.8%.

2.25 SNAFFLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,118: 6f) (11)

1	020-	BEN'A'VACHEI BOY 133 (B) J Bethell 9-0	J Weaver 2
2	00-	DAUPHIN 88 W Musson 9-0	P McCabe (3) 4
3	00-	HEVER GOLF EAGLE 136 T Naughton 9-0	T Ashley (7) 1
4	00-2	JEMSILVERTHORN 18 (V) J Bridger 9-0	G Bardwell 3
5	0-63	MAPLE BURL 9 S Dow 9-0	R Cochrane 10
6	420-	PRINCELY SOUND 175 M Bell 9-0	M Fenton 11
7	04-2	ROWLANDSONS STUD 8 G L Moore 9-0	A Clark 8
8	202-	BADGER BAY 183 C Dwyer 8-9	J Stack (3) 6
9		CINDY KATE C C Elsey 8-9	C Rutter 7
10	50-4	GOVERNORS DREAM 11 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-9	D Biggs 5
11	00-	MOGIN 103 J Ffitch-Heyes 8-9	A Mackay 9

9-4 Badger Bay, 4-1 Rowlandsons Stud, 5-1 Maple Burl, 11-2 Princely Sound, 6-1 Jemsilverthorn, 10-1 Ben'a'vachei Boy, 12-1 others

2.55 MUNNINGS LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,685: 1m 2f) (8)

1	06-1	BILLADDIE 18 (C,G) R Boss 8-13	J Weaver 6
2	20-3	BATH KNIGHT 14 D ffrench Davis 8-11	G Carter 4
3	54-3	RIGHTEOUS GENT 16 (B) K McAuliffe 8-11	R Cochrane 1
4	00-3	HOTLIPS HOULIHAN 18 (F) R Williams 8-8	D Biggs 3
5	00-0	CONQUISTAJADE 17 S Woods 8-6	J Moon (7) 2
6	602-	DISTINCT BEAUTY 70 W O'Gorman 8-6	Emma O'Gorman 5
7	00-0	MERLIN'S HONOUR 7 John Berry 8-6	T Ashley (7) 7
8	306-	SOCIETY GIRL 82 (F) C Thornton 8-6	D McKeown 8

3-1 Distinct Beauty, 7-2 Billaddie, 4-1 Hotlips Houlihan, 9-2 Bath Knight, 5-1 Society Girl, 8-1 Righteous Gent, 10-1 others

3.25 SOLID STATE SUPPLIES HANDICAP (£3,761: 1m) (9)

1	13-4	FAR AHEAD 12 (C,D,G,S) J Eyre 4-10-0	R Lappin 4
2	0/5	QUEEN OF ALL BIRDS 18 (G,S) R Boss 5-9-9	J Weaver 3
3	06-2	BENTICO 18 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-9	S Drowne (3) 2
4	600-	MASTER BEVELED 42J (CD,F,G,S) P Evans 6-9-7	R Cochrane 8
5	00-0	TAFAHHUS 18 (B,C,F) M Polglase 4-9-5	M Rimmer 5
6	30-0	MEDIATE 11 (B,C,F,G) A Hide 4-9-2	J Stack (3) 1
7	03-1	LABUDD 18 (CD,G) R Ingram 6-8-10	D Biggs 7
8	053-	DWOBETTS 36 (F,G) G L Moore 4-8-9	A Clark 9
9	60-0	AL SHAATI 14 (C,BF,G) R O'Sullivan 6-7-11	J Quinn 6

11-4 Bentico, 7-2 Labudd, 4-1 Master Beveled, 5-1 Al Shaati, 7-1 Queen of All Birds, 8-1 Far Ahead, 10-1 Dwobetts, 12-1 others

4.00 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Final. £9,585: 7f) (16)

1	21-0	DUKE VALENTINO 18 (CD,BF,G) R Hollinshead 4-10-0	M Wigham 4
2	10-0	ANZIO 11 (B,CD,F,G,S) B Pearce 5-9-10	T Ives 12
3	1-11	RAKIS 14 (CD,G,S) M Brittain 6-9-10	R Cochrane 11
4	1-04	FOUR OF SPADES 11 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 5-9-3	R Lappin 6
5	110-	SUPEROO 33 (CD,F,G) Mrs P Sly 10-9-9	A Culhane 13
6	20-2	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 14 (C,D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-9-8	A Clark 1
7	40-2	INVOCATION 2 (CD,F,G) A Moore 9-9-5	J F Egan 8
8	61-6	HAWAII STORM 14 (CD,G,S) D ffrench Davis 8-9-2	C Adamson (5) 9
9	63-3	PATSY GRIMES 14 (C,G,S) J Moore 6-9-1	A McGlone 5
10	04-1	SUPER BENZ 5 (C,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 10-9-0 (4ex)	C Teague (5) 7
11	00-2	LIVE PROJECT 10 (D,S) M Johnston 4-8-13	J Weaver 3
12	0-52	AT THE SAVOY 8 (V,G) T Barron 5-8-12	J Fortune 14
13	10-4	TUIGAMALA 14 (CD,F,G) R Ingram 5-8-9	T Ashley (7) 10
14	4-04	MAC'S TAXI 2 (V,CD,G) P Haslam 4-8-5	M Baird (6) 16
15	-242	FORT KNOX 2 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 5-8-5	D Biggs 15
16	663-	YO KIRI-B 52 (F) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-7-10	A Mackay 2

9-2 Rakis, 5-1 Super Benz, 6-1 Four Of Spades, 8-1 Fort Knox, Crystal Heights, 9-1 Superoo, 10-1 Tuigamala, 12-1 others

☐ Simon Dow's Confronter was unplaced in the Prix de Tunis at Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.45 Peep O Day. 1.15 Lord Dorcet. 1.45 Sharkashka. 2.15 Emerald Charm. 2.45 On A Pedestal. 3.15 Peruvian Gale. 3.45 Pentlands Flyer.

GOING. GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.45 SWALE MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,036: 3m 1f 110yd) (23 runners)

1	5P-5	ABBEY LAMP 31 J Johnson 7-11-0	D J Moffatt
2	5P	BARNSTORMER 70 (G) E Elliott 10-11-0	A Thornton
3	36F	DAWN ROCK 8 (B) R McKellar 5-11-0	D Parker (3)
4	0	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 53 W McKeown 5-11-0	Mr K Whelan (5)
5	3-4P	FIFTH FUSILIER 37 (B) Miss A Embiricos 9-11-0	M Brennan
6	05-0	GRAND ENTRY 31 Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0	R Hodge
7	6-05	GRATE DEEL 14 P Beaumont 6-11-0	R Supple
8	05-F	KILMESSAN JUNCTION 42 C Thornton 7-11-0	N Horrocks (7)
9	04	MAMICA 31 M Dods 6-11-0	N Smith
10	0	MASKIN BROOK 45 W Barker 8-11-0	G Harker
11	00-0	MR ORIENTAL 35 Mrs V Aconley 6-11-0	P Gould (7)
12	5/4	RADICAL CHOICE 35 J Charlton 7-11-0	B Storey
13	0-53	RON ON THE RUN 45 J Quinn 6-11-0	D Byrne
14	0	TOWNLEY HILL 15 J Dodds 8-11-0	R Guest
15	P	TRESPASSER 14 J J O'Neill 7-11-0	A Roche (3)
16	P-P	VINES CROSS 54 T Carr 8-11-0	Mr C Mulhall
17	1-6P	WILMAN 9 (F) M Hammond 6-11-0	R Burns (7)
18	0-60	EMILYMOORE 9 P Beaumont 5-10-9	B Grattan (7)
19	2U	FIGHTING TROUT 65 (G) Miss A Embiricos 9-10-9	J Ryan
20	-025	FOREVER SILVER 53 (B) L Lungo 6-10-9	T Reed
21	66-	HEATHERIDGE 364 H Alexander 6-10-9	B Harding (3)
22	6-32	PEEP O DAY 31 J Eyre 5-10-9	O Pears
23	04/	TWABLADE 606 F Murphy 8-10-9	M Foster

3-1 Peep O Day, 5-1 Grate Deel, 6-1 Mamica, 7-1 Emilymoore, 8-1 Ron On The Run, Grand Entry, 10-1 Abbey Lamp, Forever Silver, 12-1 others

1.15 BEDALE NOVICES CHASE (£3,850: 2m) (14)

1	-614	LORD DORCET 15 (CD,BF,F,G) J Charlton 6-11-10	B Storey
2	-3F3	CLIVINE 16 T Tate 6-11-3	J Callaghan
3	0P-F	DERWENT LAD 35 M Barnes 7-11-3	P Waggott
4	-364	FLOWING RIVER 8 (V,F,G) W Barker 10-11-3	G Harker
5	3-04	GALLARDINI 161 (G) B Rothwell 7-11-3	A S Smith
6	6-00	GRAND AS OWT 54 D McCune 6-11-3	A Thornton
7	0-66	GULER-A 36 R Craggs 8-11-3	N Smith
8	4453	INGLETONIAN 35 (S) B Wilkinson 7-11-3	D Bentley
9	-235	LEGAL LORD 35 M Hammond 6-11-3	R Burns (7)
10	-55U	MORNING IN MAY 35 J Johnson 8-11-3	M Foster
11	55P	RANDOM KING 31 J Wade 6-11-3	P McLoughlin
12	642-	TOUGH DEAL 364 (S) P Bradley 8-11-3	B Harding (3)
13	0/P	CHORUS LINE 70 (G) P Beaumont 7-10-12	R Supple
14	06P3	TARO CARD 8 R Woodhouse 5-10-7	D J Kavanagh (5)

9-4 Lord Dorcet, 9-2 Ingletonian, 5-1 Morning In May, 6-1 Clivine, 8-1 Flowing River, 10-1 Gallardini, Legal Lord, 12-1 others

1.45 LEYBURN HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,136: 2m) (22)

1	-P55	KING ATHELSTAN 63 (CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 8-11-13	A S Smith
2	3F0B	SHARKASHKA 9 (BF,F,G) M H Easterby 6-11-10	R Guest
3	/4-0	BALLON 9 (D,G,S) M Dods 6-11-9	T Reed
4	403F	WEAVER GEORGE 16 (B,D,F,G) J Hellens 6-11-8	A Thornton
5	3-84	I'M A DREAMER 16 Miss M Rowland 6-11-7	Gary Lyons
6	24-4	DOON RIDGE 91 (D,G) J J O'Neill 5-11-6	A Roche (3)
7	33-3	IMPERIAL BID 99F (G) Denys Smith 8-11-5	B Storey
8	1-22	SUDDEN SPIN 12F (CD,BF,G,S) J Norton 6-11-5	O Pears
9	4003	GRANDMAN 42 (S) D Moffatt 5-11-2	D J Moffatt
10	-350	ROYAL CRIMSON 14 M Hammond 5-11-0	R Burns (7)
11	230-	CHARLYCIA 364 (D,F,G,S) T Carr 8-10-11	D Towler (7)
12	3/3-	ANY DREAM WOULD DO 511 (D,F,S) P Beaumont 7-10-10	R Supple
13	5452	STASH THE CASH 8 T Dyer 5-10-9	B Harding (3)
14	1030	IZZA 7 (D,G) W Storey 5-10-8	R McGrath (7)
15	0003	JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 7 A Streeter 5-10-7	W Humphreys
16	53R5	KEEP BATTLING 8 (D,G) J Goldie 6-10-7	G Lee (3)
17	6010	TANSEEQ 7 (CD,F) M Meagher 5-10-7	D Byrne
18	-PP5	CHUMMY'S SAGA 10 (F) L Lungo 6-10-3	I Jardine (7)
19	2500	JONAEM 15 Mrs E Slack 6-10-3	J Davidson (7)
20	5610	MARCO MAGNIFICO 10 (CD,F) T Dyer 6-10-2	J Callaghan
21	5-P0	PRINCE SKYBURD 67 M Avison 5-10-2	E Callaghan (5)
22	3-05	JENDORCET 7 C Fairhurst 6-10-0	D Bentley

5-1 Sudden Spin, 6-1 Imperial Bid, 7-1 Sharkashka, 8-1 Grandman, Jemima Puddleduck, 10-1 King Athelstan, 12-1 I'm A Dreamer, 14-1 others

☐ Ray Cochrane was banned for two days and Allan Mackay for three after being found guilty of whip offences at Southwell yesterday.

2.15 SEAMER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,450: 2m 3f) (12)

1	-34F	MR FUDGE 31 (F,G) Mrs J Brown 9-11-10	E Callaghan (5)
2	1323	CHADWICK'S GINGER 37 (BF,F,G) W Haigh 8-11-8	D Parker (3)
3	-B01	NETHERBY SAID 35 (CD,F) B Wilkinson 6-11-2	D Bentley
4	3266	FINAL BEAT 15 J Curtis 7-11-1	L O'Hara
5	F53F	FLAPJACK LAD 35 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-1	T Jenks
6	3260	EXPLORE MONDIAL 8 T Dyer 5-10-11	B Harding (3)
7	420U	EMERALD CHARM 35 (BF) J Charlton 8-10-11	B Storey
8	-50U	SHAMSHOM AL ARAB 36 (F,G) B Ellison 8-10-6	Miss V Haigh
9	4F4F	MONY-SKIP 42 Mrs S Smith 7-10-3	R Guest
10	0540	REBEL KING 45 (G) M Barnes 6-10-2	P Waggott
11	3244	SONNY-P 61 J Eyre 8-10-0	N Smith
12	0/0-	ABDUL EMIR 466 (G) T Watson 9-10-0	P McLoughlin

3-1 Netherby Said, 7-2 Chadwick's Ginger, 5-1 Emerald Charm, 6-1 Flapjack Lad, Mr Fudge, 8-1 Sonny-P, 10-1 Mony-Skip, 12-1 others.

2.45 DARLINGTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,392: 2m) (16)

1	5363	FLY TO THE END 15 (CD,S) J Quinn 6-11-10	D J Kavanagh
2	-420	ANTARTICTERN 11 (BF) G Oldroyd 6-11-10	P Midgley
3	3432	CENTAUR EXPRESS 43 A Streeter 4-11-4	A Larnach
4	3020	ON A PEDESTAL 7 Mrs J Ramsden 4-11-4	D Thomas
5	-020	IN A MOMENT 8 (B) T Barron 5-11-4	E Callaghan
6	P0-6	POLLY TWO 52 Mrs S Austin 6-11-1	B Grattan (4)
7	5040	THISONESFORALICE 8 J Goldie 8-11-0	G Lee
8	5-04	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 8 R McKellar 6-10-11	D Parker
9	5526	HILLTOWN BLUES 8 (CD,G,S) T Dyer 7-10-11	A Linton (4)
10	P460	FORCING TWO 31 (B) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-11	M Keighley (4)
11	P350	PERCY PIT 8 H Alexander 7-10-8	F Leahy
12	50/	AUNTIE LORNA 858 T Watson 7-10-6	P McLoughlin
13	6-00	OVALWORLD 33 D Whillans 5-10-5	B Harding
14	-506	BILLYTOBINSLAD 36 Mrs V Aconley 5-10-4	P Gould (7)
15	-0PP	RUSTIC CRAFT 32 (B) Miss L Shally 6-10-0	G Tormey
16	0/0-	DOLLY PRICES 444 W Smith 11-10-0	S Porritt (7)

7-2 On A Pedestal, 9-2 Fly To The End, 5-1 Centaur Express, 6-1 School Of Science, 7-1 Antartictern, 8-1 Forcing Two, 10-1 others.

3.15 LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE (£3,688: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

1	5-3F	MULLINGAR 15 (F) J Charlton 7-11-10	B Storey
2	-130	CHANGE THE REIGN 39 (D,F,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 9-11-10	J Ryan
3	-330	WISE ADVICE 15 (F) M Hammond 6-11-5	A S Smith
4	230P	PRINCE YAZA 46 (F,G,S) J Curtis 9-11-5	L O'Hara
5	RP-	HEAVENLY CITIZEN 329P (CD,F,G,S) J Gledson 8-10-13	A Manners (7)
6	F11P	PERUVIAN GALE 9 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Smith 7-10-11	R Guest
7	56-0	GATHERING TIME 15 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-8	L Donnelly (7)
8	P-26	BAVARD BAY 16 (V,CD,S) G Barnett 12-10-0	D Byrne

3-1 Mullingar, 7-2 Peruvian Gale, 9-2 Prince Yaza, 6-1 Change The Reign, Heavenly Citizen, 7-1 Wise Advice, 10-1 others

3.45 BONUSPRINT MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,576: 2m) (21)

1	0	ALICAT 46 J Curtis 5-11-10	D J Kavanagh (5)
2	2	BOLD ACTION 42 J Norton 5-11-10	B Grattan (7)
3	0	J'ACCUSE 38 M Meagher 6-11-10	G Lee (3)
4	0	MULLINS 38 D Moffatt 5-11-10	S Taylor (7)
5	6	PENTLANDS FLYER 16 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10	M Keighley (7)
6	4	RULE OUT THE REST 35 T Tate 5-11-10	Mr W Burnell (7)
7	0-0	SILVER PRIDE 90 J Fitzgerald 6-11-10	E Callaghan (5)
8	0-	SO REEL 364 J Dodds 6-11-10	Mr A Robson
9	0-	THE BEACON RUSTLER 247 F Watson 6-11-10	P McLoughlin
10	6-4	AUNTIE ALICE 43 J Fitzgerald 6-11-5	F Leahy (3)
11	4-	BAREFOOT LANDING 354 C Parker 5-11-5	D Parker (3)
12	0	BOWLAND PARK 35 E Alston 5-11-5	D Thomas (7)
13	0	MILLERS GOLDENGIRL 35 Mrs S Smith 5-11-5	R Wilkinson (7)
14	50	MY MISSILE 31 R Cockburn 6-11-5	Mr C Mulhall
15	60	ROSIE 31 Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-5	S O'Donnell (7)
16	0	GODS SQUAD 16 W McKeown 4-10-12	Mr K Whelan (5)
17		GOLF LAND L Lungo 4-10-12	I Jardine (7)
18		SIR BOB W McKeown 4-10-12	Mr R Hale
19		THE SHARROW LEGEND G Wade 4-10-12	B Harding (3)
20		WAR WHOOP C Thornton 4-10-12	N Horrocks (7)
21		MISTY IMAGE B Murray 4-10-7	P Midgley (3)

3-1 Rule Out The Rest, 4-1 Bold Action, 9-2 Pentlands Flyer, 6-1 Auntie Alice, 7-1 Silver Pride, 8-1 J'Accuse, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; K Morgan, 11 from 36, 30.6%; J Quinn, 4 from 14, 28.6%; L Lungo, 10 from 36, 27.8%; J Fitzgerald, 14 from 61, 23.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 22 from 102, 21.6%

JOCKEYS: A S Smith, 13 winners from 42 rides, 31.0%; E Callaghan, 3 from 10, 30.0%; R Hodge, 6 from 31, 19.4%; D Byrne, 7 from 43, 16.3%; T Reed, 12 from 80, 15.0%; R Guest, 3 from 25, 12.0%

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good

1.00 (2m hdle) 1, Karshi (J Osborne, 5-1); 2, River North (8-11 fav); 3, Foil Stone (20-1). 14 ran. 1¼l, 7l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £1.10, £5.50. DF: £4.00. Trio: £34.30. CSF: £8.64.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, Zabadi (A Maguire, 11-1); 2, Ocean Hawk (5-2); 3, Deymiar (40-1). Sovereigns Parade 2-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Bide Our Time. 11l, 4l. D Nicholson. Tote: £8.60; £2.40, £1.40, £16.50. DF: £9.10. Trio: £337.40. CSF: £36.77.

2.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Fly Guard (Martin Smith, 25-1); 2, Flow (4-1); 3, Dawn Flight (14-1). Crosa's Delight 6-4 fav (pu). 10 ran. 20l, 30l. N Babbage. Tote: £36.70; £5.10, £1.50, £2.60. DF: £65.50. Trio: £235.50. CSF: £110.31. Tricast: £1,325.90.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, Time Won't Wait (J Railton, 9-4 fav); 2, Peaceman (15-2); 3, Leseta (5-1). 8 ran. 4l, 5l. R Phillips. Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £2.90, £2.90. DF: £12.50. CSF: £18.89. Tricast: £72.02.

3.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Great Easeby (R McGrath, 7-1); 2, Take The Buckskin (5-2 fav); 3, Special Account (8-1). 12 ran. 6l, 9l. W Storey. Tote: £9.00; £2.90, £1.10, £3.20. DF: £11.50. Trio: £98.10. CSF: £25.41. Tricast: £139.56.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, Toureen Prince (Mr J Culloty, 5-1); 2, Repeat The Dose (5-1); 3, The Whip (10-1). Clover Shepherd 7-4 fav (ur). 5 ran. 12l, 12l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £5.80; £1.70, £2.60. DF: £14.00. CSF: £24.27.

4.00 (2m hdle) 1, Castle Sweep (A Maguire, 1-2 fav); 2, Just 'N Ace (13-2); 3, Maitre De Musique (12-1). 12 ran. NR: Jungle Highway. 15l, 5l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.50; £1.70, £2.80, £2.60. DF: £4.50. Trio: £13.50. CSF: £5.46.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £23,606.52 carried forward to Kempton Park today).

Placepot: £333.60. Quadpot: £151.40.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.40 (7f) 1, Flirty Gertie (J Weaver, 13-8 fav); 2, Square Deal (2-1); 3, Our Robert (10-1). 11 ran. 5l, 6l. R Boss. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.80, £2.70. DF: £3.00. Trio: £16.60. CSF: £5.94.

2.10 (1m) 1, Chadleigh Lane (F Lynch, 10-1); 2, No Submission (5-1); 3, Summer Villa (10-1). Hawwam 6-4 fav. 7 ran. 1½l, 1l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £14.30; £5.30, £2.20. DF: £35.00. CSF: £53.23.

2.40 (6f) 1, Seeking Destiny (P Fessey, 8-1); 2, Westman's Weigh (9-4 fav); 3, Kind Of Light (8-1). 11 ran. Nk, 2½l. M Chapman. Tote: £10.70; £2.50, £1.10, £2.40. DF: £23.90. Trio: £35.60. CSF: £25.94. Tricast: £142.10.

3.10 (1m 4f) 1, Premier Dance (A Mackay, 7-1); 2, Anistop (7-2); 3, Record Lover (33-1). Hullbank 3-1 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 4l. D Haydn Jones. Tote: £9.00; £2.50, £1.80, £5.10. DF: £10.70. CSF: £29.91. Tricast: £686.99.

3.40 (1m 3f) 1, Sharp Gazelle (R Cochrane, 12-1); 2, Sarasi (3-1); 3, Hard Love (4-1). Warhurst 5-2 fav. 9 ran. Nk, 1¾l. B Smart. Tote: £12.30; £2.80, £2.00, £1.20. DF: £9.60. Trio: £11.90. CSF: £45.73. No bid.

4.10 (7f) 1, So Amazing (J Weaver, 7-2); 2, Cashmere Lady (3-1 fav); 3, Indiahra (6-1). 9 ran. ¾l, 3l. Miss S Hall. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.60, £1.40. DF: £8.80. Trio: £41.50. CSF: £14.32. Tricast: £56.31.

Placepot: £128.70. Quadpot: £16.40.

Catterick off

THE meeting at Catterick yesterday became the third fixture this week to fall victim to fog. Officials delayed the first race until 1.35 but, after the horses had reached the start, the fog thickened again and the meeting was abandoned.

Saturday portrait: Martin Johnson by David Hands, rugby correspondent

England banking on tower of strength at Parc des Princes

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

Once, in the days when the England rugby union squad was less accustomed to success than it is now, if you asked about the team's banker you would probably have been directed to the player who held the kitty on tour. Today, at the Parc des Princes, you will be directed to Martin Johnson.

A variety of qualities have earned England their string of successes over France in the five nations' championship. The most significant ones have been character and discipline, and Johnson typifies those virtues. At the same time, the quality of his play is probably higher and its consistency greater than any of his present colleagues.

Johnson and the second row of a rugby union scrum seem made for each other. At 6ft 7in and nearly 18 stone, he is magnificently built for the requirements of the scrummage and, more particularly, his own domain of the lineout. He and Martin Bayfield, his partner at lock, have suddenly become the core players in a changing England XV.

Not that Johnson, 25, would necessarily acknowledge that. To him, rugby is the ultimate team game, in which players only function through the assistance of others. If he has enjoyed success on any given afternoon, he will argue that it is because of the support of his props or the accurate throwing of his hooker. For the same reason, the man with the beetling black brows, who carries round with him an aura of menace, will never back away from the confrontations which, from time to time, arise on the field.

Johnson does not perceive himself as a "minder" or, as the Australians might say, the team "enforcer". Maybe he does not need to. Quietly spoken off the field, inclined to outdoor pursuits for his relaxation, the steel common to all top sportsmen becomes obvious once he is ready for action.

Those who have operated at the rugby coalface suggest that Johnson's own ability is the key component in his remorseless rise to fame. He reads the game better than most English players and responds to the shifting patterns. He will move back and forth in the lineout to aid his hooker's throw — far more than many locks — and, in the crucial area of kick-offs, he shows an uncanny awareness of where the ball will arrive.

If that sounds a familiar quality in a Leicester player, it is because Dean Richards, his club captain, also has it. Richards is unequivocal. "I regard him as the world's best No 2 jumper," Richards said. For those less than familiar with rugby nuances, that is the position near the front of the lineout that should guarantee possession, even when backs are to the tryline and disaster threatens.

That is why Johnson, who has worked in the financial world for the past four years, is England's banker against France as the 1996 five nations' championship rolls off the production line and brings him his 21st cap. He is also the living embodiment of Jack Rowell's desire that young English players should be exposed to the demands of first-class sport at the earliest opportunity.

> 'An instinctive player, his leadership qualities are emerging as he matures'

The second of three brothers from an enthusiastic sporting family in Market Harborough — Hilary, his mother, is an ultra-distance runner and David, his father, enjoys all sports — Johnson went through the various representative age-group teams for England before taking an extended holiday in New Zealand after leaving Robert Smythe Upper School in Harborough.

He stayed in Taupo, the lakeside town in the King Country of North Island, and since the local club was short of sizeable locks, they gave the young Englishman a trial. It was his first senior club rugby and proved an admirable finishing school. He became a regular in the King Country senior side, then playing in the second division of the provincial championship under the chairmanship of Colin Meads, another grim-visaged lock, and appeared for the New Zealand Under-21 side alongside such players as Craig Innes, John Timu and Va'aiga Tuigamala, all future All Blacks.

He was exposed to the game in all its domestic fervour, from the man in the street to the television cameras screening games in which he appeared against many of the best players in the world. He found that he could cope, that he could trade knock for knock, that opponents respected his athleticism, his ball-handling and commitment.

When he returned to England, his ambition was no higher than a regular place in the Leicester senior side, which was delayed by a troublesome shoulder. Thereafter, in 1993, his career went into overdrive: his first international cap came at 24 hours' notice as a replacement for the injured Wade Dooley. That, too, was against France, at Twickenham, and it took him a mere half-hour to come to terms with the environment.

When Dooley left the British Isles tour to New Zealand that summer, after the death of his father, Johnson was sent for from the England A tour to Canada. He played two provincial games, against Taranaki and Auckland, and observers knew that a place in the international team against the All Blacks was his.

Suddenly, two years after the world-class partnership of Dooley and Paul Ackford had broken up, England had another in Johnson and Bayfield. This introduces, however, another dimension: the England management must now be pondering the post-Carling era, the conclusion of Will Carling's eight-year tenure as England captain.

Now 30, it is hard to see Carling remaining until another World Cup, in 1999, and there has been speculation concerning his likely successor, although Ben Clarke's rise to the pack leadership makes him a candidate. Yet Johnson has gifts rare in English rugby. He understands the game in the way that many do not. Where Englishmen of recent years have been happy to stick with the gameplan in the hope that all will be well, Johnson appreciates the need to change on the hoof. "He is an instinctive rugby player and his leadership skills are coming out as he matures as a person," Richards said.

Richards has no doubt that Johnson will captain Leicester in the future, if he wants to, and that he could do the same for England. Johnson leads from the front while at the same time weighing up the state of the game.

That sentiment extends to a broader context. For both club and country, Johnson has been a respected contributor to the introduction of professionalism and not merely because his job happens to be with the Midland Bank. It is not an area he cares to discuss much, since he prefers to concentrate on success on the field.

Yet his views on professional rugby are instructive. He foresees players losing their appetite through the constant demands of the game and seeks, instead, to achieve a balance between his career and his sport. His situation as a marketing manager with the Midland mirrors that of the typical Japanese works club — the bank has been understanding in granting him time to play, investing goodwill in the hope that it will be returned with interest when Johnson's playing days are over.

"Going to work is fun," he said. That is to say, it takes him out of the all-pervading world of rugby and offers a fresh direction for his talents. As more and more clubs acquire cash to buy players, his name will crop up on most lists and he will have to balance a financial killing against a long-term financial career. Do not be surprised if he opts for loyalty.

Kernen leads Swiss to downhill domination

By Our Sports Staff

BRUNO KERNEN produced a perfect run to lead a Swiss sweep of the leading places in an alpine skiing World Cup men's downhill event at Veysonnaz, Switzerland, yesterday. In virtually ideal conditions, Kernen sped down the technically demanding Piste de l'Ours in 2min 03.14sec to beat William Besse by 0.01sec and claim his first World Cup victory. Daniel Mahrer was third in 2min 03.39sec, ahead of Xavier Gigandet, who clocked 2min 03.60sec.

It was the first time since a downhill race at Mount Allen, Canada, in 1987 that Swiss skiers had taken the top four places in a World Cup event.

Brian Stemmle, of Canada, who was nearly killed in an horrific crash in Kitzbühel six years ago, continued his renaissance by posting a season's-best fifth place in 2min 03.73sec.

Skiing tentatively after a fall in training on Wednesday, Luc Alphand, of France, the winner of the first two downhills of the season and the leader of the World Cup downhill standings, finished 23rd in 2min 04.63sec. Günther Mader, of Austria, who won the downhill event last weekend in Kitzbühel, had an indisciplined run and finished equal 25th in 2min 04.74sec.

Picabo Street, of the United States, beat Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, by 0.58sec to win the first of two World Cup downhill races in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Street, 24, from Sun Valley, the World Cup downhill champion, collected her second victory of the season — the eighth of her career — descending the Olimpia Tofane course in 1min 28.84sec. Wiberg, an Olympic and world giant slalom champion, had her best downhill finish since 1994.

Street, 25, who strengthened her lead in the downhill standings, said that the Cortina track has definitely proved to be her favourite. She won the downhill there last year and has also finished placed.

"No doubt, this is my lucky course; I love it," Street said. "Last year, I wanted to beat everybody but now I am more relaxed." She admitted using music to get her mind "in the place where I want it" before a race.

"For me, to win with such a wide margin here is a real morale-booster," she said. "I was very nervous because it was really icy and more demanding than last year."

Wiberg, the Olympic combined champion and winner of two slaloms this season, was delighted with her finish after such a long absence from the downhill podium. "I had to do something after my bad results in Garmisch and Maribor, but I didn't expect to do so well here," she said.

She confessed that she had trained last summer with Street, who had given her a few tips. "Picabo gave me some good tips for the downhill," she said. "Maybe I put too much pressure on myself at the start of the season, though. After Garmisch and Maribor, I decided to relax."

Kernen on his way to a maiden World Cup victory

Footballers raise aloft Pienaar's proud banner

ROB HUGHES

On Saturday

Francois Pienaar, South Africa's most easily recognised white man, slipped quietly out of the country yesterday, his wedding day, admitting that on their Far East honeymoon he could not pledge undivided devotion to his bride — that the African Nations' Cup football tournament will preoccupy him from time to time.

"It's definitely become a new dimension in South Africa, and in my personal life," said the man who led the national rugby union team to its World Cup triumph last May.

During the past week, Pienaar, surprised at the warm welcome he has received in Soweto, has been at the side of Neil Tovey, the national football skipper, as he attempts to emulate Pienaar in his role as both diplomat and sportsman.

"The reception the team is getting, and the feelings of emotion in the stadium for us as South Africans, has been difficult to put into words," Pienaar said. "When I think back just a short time to the divisions here — in sport and life — I have to say that my mind is too small to really appreciate all that has happened.

"It makes you feel so little, and yet I look at Neil making speeches before the president, and I know that he has accepted the responsibility of a mission that has gone on and on for me."

Tovey, who has the style and blond appearance of England's left back, Stuart Pearce, did actually ask his rugby counterpart at a luncheon this week how he could be leaving South Africa at this time. Pienaar responded that he expected to take only one honeymoon in his life, but that he would be following closely the fortunes of *Bafana Bafana*, as the South Africa XI is known.

The football crowds, who clamour for South Africa and disappear when the other 14 nations in this tournament take the stage, missed seeing a remarkable 16-year-old from Sierra Leone, Mohammed Kallon, become the youngest player to score in a major tournament. They missed an extraordinary goal from Mantual Bucuane, from Mozambique, who waltzed past five Tunisians — the entire defence — before beating the goalkeeper.

They come, these remarkable individuals, from such a disparate continent. Many of them now travel Europe with their clubs, living five-star lives, wearing their jewellery. Yet they have congregated here, in a land once forbidden to them, to play for the princely sum of £10 a day in pocket-money.

Talk with them, and you find that they are uncomfortably aware of their origins. How could it be otherwise when George Weah, voted the world's No 1 footballer, speaks of war in Liberia and a population that cannot watch his team's attempt to win this tournament, because less than 500 of them can afford the satellite television fees.

One was struck by the contrast in photographs in the same issue of *The Johannesburg Star*. On the front page, an ecstatic fan, who happened to be black, near toothless but full of joy, jumping onto the back of Clive Barker, South Africa's white football coach. Inside, a haunting photograph from Angola, a man with one leg, one eye, and the ravages of war and poverty all around.

Pienaar: set high standard for nation's sportsmen

The release, even if it proves only a passing emotion, of the world's most contagious game, consumes Africans now, while the politicking goes on. Egidius Braun, the president of the Germany Football Association, flew in to trade with African officials following the pledge of the Fifa president, João Havelange, to Nelson Mandela that Africa, almost certainly South Africa, should stage the World Cup finals in 2006. The Germans had fancied themselves for that one, but Braun apparently made it known that he would support Africa, provided Germany received reciprocal support for 2010.

Why should Englishmen be concerned? Because if the "rotation" espoused for the future comes to pass, then the expected £200 million renovation of Wembley Stadium could not be rewarded with a football World Cup before the year 2026.

Today Zola Pieterse (née Budd), a victim of apartheid as much as any black athlete, returns to racing for the first time since the birth of her daughter, Lisa, last year.

In her thirtieth year, she is more aware, and more prepared than ever before, to rationalise the changes in her country. Suffice to say that she, too, delights in a racially mixed football team that is attracting the crowds.

As she prepares for a 10km road race, a stepping stone towards the world cross-country championships, and possibly the Olympic Games, let her sum up: "Before the new South Africa, this land had not had sporting heroes of any colour. I'm excited by what is happening, I'm still motivated as an athlete, and to be honest I want to share the recognition that people like Pienaar are getting in my country."

☐ *Simon Barnes is away*

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

TOKYO: Japan Open: Selected result: Mixed doubles: Quarter-final: N Ponting and J Wright (GB) bt J-E Antonsson and A Crabo (Swe) 15-12 15-10

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 89 Chicago 92; Detroit 100 San Antonio 98; Houston 106 Boston 108; Milwaukee 100 Golden State 96; Vancouver 90 Cleveland 98; Sacramento 105 Portland 100

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CLUBS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Ulkerspor (Tur) 60 Olympiakos (Gr) 72; CSKA Moscow bt Unicaja Malaga (Sp) 81-67, Benetton Treviso (It) bt Olympique d'Antibes (Fr) 95-84. Group B: Pau-Orthez (Fr) beat Bologna (It) 74-69 (OT); Panathinaikos (Gr) bt Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 93-82; Maccabi Tel Aviv (Is) bt Benfica (Por) 94-82.

BOBSLEIGHING

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy: World Cup: Two-man: 1, Germany I 1min 49.57sec (54.76sec, 54.81sec); 2, Italy I 1:49.67; 3, Germany II 1:49.86; 4, Canada I 1:49.90; 5, United States I 1:50.08; 6, Germany III 1:50.40

BOWLS

YETTON TROPHY: Zone finals: Cumbria 94 Darlington 52; York 121 Swinton 55; Lincoln 88 Nottingham 67; Cambridge Chesterton 87 Northampton 53; Sole Bay 86 North Walsham 75; Towerlands 90 Stonyhill 89; Picketts Lock 78 Tye Green 77; Desborough (Maidenhead) 87 Herts 65; Chipping Norton 90 Rugby 81; Croydon 94 King George 61; Egham 102 Wey Valley 62; Angel 82 Folkestone 53; Eastbourne 102 King Alfred 48; Five Rivers 86 East Dorset 71; Clevedon 85 Exmouth 60; Plymouth Civil Service 78 Exonia 75.

CRICKET

GOROMONZI, Zimbabwe: Tour match (first day of three): England Under-19 225 (O Shah 62, D Sales 55). Mashonaland Districts 49-3

FOOTBALL

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Wayside City 2 Cherry Orchard 1. First-round replays: Drogheda United 2 Dundalk 1 (aet); St James's Gate 0 Derry 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 1 Blackburn Rovers 0. Third division: Doncaster 1 Stockport County 1

FA PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-16 TROPHY: Northumberland 4 West Yorkshire 0

ENGLISH SCHOOLS SNICKERS UNDER-19 TROPHY: Brighton SFC 2 Farnham College 5

ENGLISH GOODYEAR UNDER-16 TROPHY: Woodlands, Essex 2 Bungay High School, Suffolk 3; Darland High School, Clwyd 4 Bishops High School, Cheshire 2

ENGLISH GIRLS VIMTO UNDER-16 TROPHY: Willenhall Comprehensive, West Midlands 4 Westwood High, Staffordshire 0; Kingsthorpe Upper, Northants 1 King Alfreds, Oxon 2.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: Group A (in Johannesburg): Cameroon 2 Egypt 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Egypt	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Cameroon	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Angola	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Group B (in Bloemfontein): Algeria 2 Sierra Leone 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Sierra Leone	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Zambia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Burkina Faso	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Gabon	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Zaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group D (in Port Elizabeth): Ghana 2 Tunisia 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Mozambique	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

CONCACAF GOLD CUP: Semi-final: United States 0 Brazil 1 (in Los Angeles)

SPANISH CUP: Fourth round, second leg: Real Madrid 2 Español 1 (Español win 5-3 on agg)

GOLF

CAPE TOWN: South African Open: Leading first-round scores (South Africa unless stated): 65: E Els. 66: I Leggatt (Can), D Howell (GB). 67: K Stone. 69: J-C Cambon (Fr), M Scholz, C Davison (GB), P Blake. 70: N Gandy, R Kaplan, T Dodds (Nam), Ray Freeman (US), D James. 71: D W Basson, M Archer, R Goosen, D van Staden, S van der Merwe, M McNulty (Zim), P Jonas, J McHenry (Ire), M Green, W Coetsee

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Open: Leading second-round scores: 140: L Porter (USA) 72, 68. 141: S Flesch (USA) 66, 75. 142: C Pena (US) 67, 75; K Druce (Aus) 71, 71, D Clarke (GB) 70, 72. British scores: 143: E Fryatt 73, 70. 146: S Torrance 70, 76.

PALM DESERT, California: Bob Hope Classic: Leading second-round scores (United States unless stated): 133: P Goydos 69, 64. 134: M Brooks 66, 68; B Kamm 66, 68. 135: M Calcavecchia 67, 68; 136: A Bean 69, 67, P Stewart 71, 65, T Kite 68, 68; R Bryant 71, 65, F Allem (SA) 68, 68, D Hammond 67, 69. 137: P Jordan 70, 67, J Maggert 69, 68.

HOCKEY

BARCELONA: Olympic qualifying tournament: Great Britain 3 (Giles 15, 35, Thompson 30) India 3 (S Kumar 5, M Kumar 54, Pillay 56) Holland 5 Canada 1 Malaysia 2 Belgium 1 Spain 3 Belarus 1

RUGBY UNION

A international

Ireland	26	Scotland	19

Ireland A: Tries: Mason, penalty try, Wallace. Conversions: Mason. Penalty goals: Mason (3). Scotland A: Tries: Kerr, Walton. Penalty goals: Welch (3)

(at Donnybrook)

Under-21 international

Ireland	21	Scotland	9

Ireland: Tries: Egan, McIlreavy. Conversion: Campion. Penalty goals: Campion (2). Dropped goal: Campion. Scotland: Penalty goals: McKee (3)

(at Blackrock College)

Student international

France	33	England	14

French Students: Tries: Longo, Chirono, Berthe. Conversions: Berthe (3). Penalty goals: Berthe (3). Dropped goal: Berthe. English Students: Try: Sheley. Penalty goals: Ufton (2). Dropped goal: Ryan.

(at Jean Bouin stadium, Paris)

CLUB MATCHES: Ayr 13 Biggar 24, Edinburgh Wanderers 20 GHK 23

SRU TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Regional League: East two: Kirkcaldy 18 Grangemouth 9

SKIING

CORTINA, Italy: World Cup: Women's downhill: 1, P Street (US) 1min 28.84sec; 2, P Wiberg (Swe) 1:29.42; 3, I Kostner (It) 1:29.45; 4, B Merlin (It) 1:29.57; 5, I Stockl (Austria) 1:29.91; 6, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 1:29.92. Leading downhill standings: 1, Street 300pts; 2, K Seizinger (Ger) 212; 3, Meissnitzer 208

VEYSONNAZ, Switzerland: World Cup: Men's downhill (Switzerland unless stated): 1, B Kernen 2min 3.14sec; 2, W Besse 2:03.15; 3, D Mahrer 2:03.39; 4, X Gigandet 2:03.60; 5, B Stemmle (Can) 2:03.73; 6, K Rasmussen (US) 2:03.83. British: 50, G Bell 2:06.68. Leading downhill standings: 1, L Alphand (Fr) 352pts; 2, G Mader (Austria) 250; 3, P Ortlieb (Austria) 239. British placing: 55, Bell 6. Leading overall standings: 1, L Kjus (Nor) 956; 2, M Von Grünigen 690; 3, A Tomba (It) 616. British placing: 129, Bell 6.

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: Embassy world championship: Sixth qualifying round (England unless stated): I McCulloch bt P Daubney 10-6; R McDonald (Scot) bt N Fruin 10-6; P Davies (Wales) bt W Rendle 10-3; M Campbell (Scot) bt P Williams (Wales) 10-3; S Mazrocis bt I Sargent (Wales) 10-7; B Pinches bt J Whitty 10-6; K Payne bt I Bullimore 10-4; Y Merchant (India) bt P Sweeny 10-6; J Michie bt L Robinson 10-3; M Rowing bt A Bishop 10-1; D Dale (Wales) bt N Tomkins (Wales) 10-6; R Foxall bt I Graham 10-5; G Groenie bt R Herthy (Wales) 10-6; D Wilson bt D Walker 10-8; C Morton bt D Coles 10-6; D Clarke bt M Dunn 10-7; A Bolsover bt S Morris 10-5; S Storey bt R Michael 10-6; E Henderson (Scot) bt J Perry 10-5; C Scanlon bt S Parnell 10-8; W Brown bt K Broughton 10-9; J Wallace bt A Hannah 10-8; G Dunn (Scot) wo J Wych (Can).

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Broxbourne 5 Tamworth St Motors, Duffield 0; Pontefract 0 Mitsubishi Electric, Potters Bar 5; Bromley Town 4 Sigma Strings, Swansea 1; Keyline Barnham Broom 2 Philips Windows, Chichester 3.

هكذا من الأصل

Dublin filled with expectation

Grand plan on hold as Ireland focus on present

From Gerald Davies in Dublin

DUBLIN'S weather is sorrowfully overcast and grey, but this, as ever, bears no resemblance to the personality of the city or its citizens. Nothing must get in the way of pursuing the pleasure principle or diminish the city's sense of vitality. No more is this the case than at present, as Ireland, with a renewed vigour and heartiness, prepare to face Scotland this afternoon at Lansdowne Road.

Try as they might, within the privacy of their own rooms, to play down their place as favourites to win the match, the Ireland team cannot escape from the quiet optimism that pervades the thoughts of people not shackled by the responsibility of turning this expectation into fact.

Furthermore, there are those who see Ireland as the dark horses over what appears to be an unpredictable championship course. They have rightly cast this aside, for, with Parc des Princes and Twickenham lying ahead, such wishful imaginings must be put away for another day. The immediacy of this afternoon is what matters and, in the madcap, topsy-turvy world of the five nations' championship, anything is possible.

Madcap, did I say? Well, yes. One example, for the moment, will suffice. Last season, at this stage, Scotland were predicted to end at the bottom of the heap. Yet, as they progressed, so they flowered to the extent that they entered the final game, against England at Twickenham, challenging for nothing less than the grand slam.

"Nothing can be judged by what has gone before," Jim Telfer, the Scotland director of rugby, said. "The championship is a one-off. In my 32 years of playing the game, there is nothing like it in the world for its unique atmosphere and passion when the difference between victory and defeat rests on a knife-edge."

So it is. For to anticipate the likely plot this afternoon is complicated; to try to pin down the prospects is elusive.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Nobody, for instance, can be certain of the consequences of recent events.

Scotland, at Murrayfield, their fortress where most teams flounder, managed only a draw with Western Samoa, but were outscored by two tries to none. There was no solace either when the Scotland A team, which differed only by three players from the team today, lost to Italy 29-17.

On the other hand, Ireland, in their preparations, put Fiji, who had given Wales a close match, to the sword and amassed 44 points. A fortnight ago, they returned from a rain-swept Atlanta with a seven-point victory against the United States, who, in turn last season, had beaten Canada.

No, I hardly think that there is much to go on there. When past confrontations are studied for clues, contests in the new world of rugby bear little relation to the old.

Emotion will not be enough, either. Not if Murray Kidd, the new Ireland coach, has his way. This hard-nosed New Zealander will want to channel Irish passion away from its wayward tendency and towards a technically and a more statistically accountable game. With an experienced pack of forwards, fitter and, as they say, more focused than hitherto — by all accounts — they should profit in lineouts and scrums against opponents who appear to be more lightweight.

Much depends on how Elwood plays at stand-off half. Outside him, he has a match-winner in Geoghegan on the wing, and, in Bell at centre, Ireland have one of the outstanding successes of the World Cup. The latter is partnered only for the second time by McQuilkin.

Scotland, too, have plenty of experience to call on, but it is not who is still around that matters, more who has gone. For the first time in ten years, they have to overcome the absence of their goalkicker, match-winner and, well, talisman — incarnated in one — Gavin Hastings.

To account for the kicks at goal, a department that was glaringly poor in Italy, Scotland have accommodated Michael Dods, who was considered a full back but is now on the left wing. It was he, then playing on the right wing, who kicked the five goals against Western Samoa.

Scotland's declared intention is to play their traditional, fast-rucking, quick-quick game and move away from the heavier confrontation, but they will be hard put to do so.

Yet they have succeeded in the past — substantially so. Of their 11 meetings with Ireland since 1986, Scotland have won nine times. Ireland have had to be content with a solitary win, in 1988, and a drawn match in Dublin two years ago.

We might, therefore, ponder on the law of averages, which might favour an Ireland victory; but this is as capricious a way of predicting the outcome as any based on pre-championship form.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

IRELAND		SCOTLAND
*J E Staples (Harlequins)	15	R Shepherd (Melrose)
R M Wallace (Garryowen)	14	C A Joiner (Melrose)
J C Bell (Northampton)	13	S Hastings (Watsonians)
K P McQuilken (Bective Rangers)	12	I C Jardine (Stirling County)
S P Geoghegan (Bath)	11	M Dods (Northampton)
E P Elwood (Lansdowne)	10	G P J Townsend (Northampton)
C Saverimutto (Sale)	9	B W Redpath (Melrose)
N J Popplewell (Newcastle)	1	D I W Hilton (Bath)
T J Kingston (Dolphin)	2	K D McKenzie (Stirling County)
P M Clohessy (Young Munster)	3	P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
J Davidson (Dungannon)	6	*R I Wainwright (Watsonians)
G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)	4	S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)
N P J Francis (Old Belvedere)	5	G W Weir (Melrose)
D Corkery (Terenure College)	7	I R Smith (Gloucester)
P S Johns (Dungannon)	8	E W Peters (Bath)

Referee: B Campsall (England) Kick-off: 3.0 TV coverage: BBC1 * captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M J Field (Malone), 17 P A Burke (Cork Constitution), 18 N A Hogan (Terenure College), 19 W D McBride (Malone), 20 A Clarke (Northampton), 21 H D Hurley (Old Wesley).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K M Logan (Stirling County), 17 C M Chalmers (Melrose), 18 D W Patterson (West Hartlepool), 19, S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 J Hay (Hawick).

Townsend calm in eye of the storm

Mark Souster on a new No 10 ready to answer Scotland's call to arms at Lansdowne Road

When Scotland take the field at Lansdowne Road this afternoon, they will do so without Craig Chalmers for the first time in two years. In a country where players of his calibre and experience are in short supply, his omission from the side, after 47 caps, has caused a stir.

In his place will be Gregor Townsend, the mercurial 22-year-old originally from Gala, in whom the future of Scottish rugby appears for now to be invested. There has been much talk of Scotland throwing off the shackles and embracing a new attacking philosophy, with Townsend, undoubtedly the most talented footballer in Scotland, the man charged with that responsibility.

While the argument over the respective merits of the two stand-off halves has yet to reach Rob Andrew v Stuart Barnes proportions, each has his admirers. Importantly for Townsend, at the moment at least, his include the selectors.

The opportunity is his, and this time he intends not to waste it. "Of course there is rivalry, but it was more intense two years ago when he was dropped for me," Townsend said.

"I didn't take my chance then. I was very naive and insular in the way I played the game. I was too worried about making mistakes and getting picked for the next game. That was more of a psychological problem because I thought I was ready for stand-off. Hopefully, now that I have sorted that out, I can make the position mine.

"I suppose we are both stereotyped, myself as a runner, and Craig as a kicker. But that is probably insulting to both our games. I would like to think that my kicking game is quite strong — although it needs a lot of work — while Craig would say his running game is very good."

Townsend has played much of his recent rugby at centre both for Scotland and his club, Northampton, where he has blossomed under Ian McGeechan, the former Scotland coach. Northampton's dominance in the Courage League second division, where they average more than 50 points a game, has enabled Townsend to cavort in midfield.

After graduating from Edinburgh University, he joined the "brawn drain" of Scottish players to England and a job as a trainee corporate banker in London. He appears not to take himself or life too seriously, but, behind the "daft laddie" image, there is a shrewd rugby brain.

MARC ASPLAND

The Scots are keen for a change of philosophy and Townsend is ready to deliver

His absent-mindedness may already be the stuff of legend in Scotland — he regularly forgets his passport on foreign trips — but he is happy for the world and opponents to take him at face value, and thus underestimate him.

His approach is instinctive, cavalier even, his pace off the mark invaluable in exploiting the choked back divisions of modern rugby. He will attempt the outrageous and, if it does not work, then there is always next time, as he demonstrated in Paris last spring.

Having scored a try, it was his wayward kick which appeared to have gifted France the match, until, that is, Townsend conjured from nothing that famous inside pass to Gavin Hastings.

"I like to play it flat close to the gain line. Bryan Redpath's service enables me to do that. I always look for a gap, and not automatically think that slow ball means high ball. I will always try to kick as a last resort, apart, that is, from an attacking kick, when we can get possession back again," he said.

So how will he respond to the frenzy of Lansdowne Road? Will he be calm in the eye of the storm? Will he feel pressure?

"No," he said emphatically. "It is not a case of feeling pressure, more a case of being able to play under pressure."

And what of Scotland's chances, already written off before the campaign has started?

"People forget about the terrific season we had last year, when we were in a similar position. We proved people wrong and will do so again."

Then, though, they had the world-beating Gavin Hastings in the side: Scotland can only hope that Townsend takes on his mantle.

Armstrong displays battling qualities in defeat

Ireland A	26
Scotland A	19

From Mark Souster in Dublin

GARY ARMSTRONG confirmed that his rehabilitation is almost complete with a performance in which he demonstrated all his renowned combative qualities in a thrilling A international at Donnybrook yesterday.

In a sparkling match in which John Gallagher, the former New Zealand full back, made a tentative representative debut for Ireland, Armstrong proved that, after his recent trials and tribulations, he is fit for international rugby.

Ireland just about deserved to win a match in which Scotland dominated for the first 20 minutes of each half, but were unable to convert their superiority into points, mainly through poor handling at crucial moments.

In contrast, Ireland took their chances. Simon Mason, of Orrell, kicked two early penalties before the Scots manufactured a thrilling try. Peter Walton drove through at the lineout, the ball was recycled along the back line and Graham Shiel's angled run created the space. Stuart Lang, who made several telling incursions into the line, took it on before delivering the scoring pass to John Kerr.

Cronin's early domination at the front of the lineout provided a solid platform for Scotland. However, after 18 minutes, he lost the ball on Scotland's throw close to their own line and the Irish forwards started a driving maul that ended with Wallace scoring the try.

Mason added another penalty and then scored an interception try as Ireland ended the first half 19-5 ahead. Scotland clawed their way back through two penalties by Scott Welsh in the second half, but Ireland maintained their two-score cushion when Scotland dropped the scrum and Ireland were awarded a penalty try. Walton's try at the end was mere window-dressing.

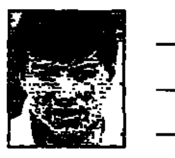
SCORERS: Ireland A: **Tries:** Wallace, penalty try, Mason. **Conversion:** Mason. **Penalty goals:** Mason (3). Scotland A: **Tries:** Kerr, Walton. **Penalty goals:** Welsh (3).

IRELAND A: C O'Shea (London Irish), S Mason (Orrell), J Gallagher (Blackrock), S McCahill (Sunday's Well), N Woods (Blackrock), D Humphreys (London Irish), A Rolland (Blackrock, captain), P Flavin (Blackrock), S Byrne (Blackrock), P Wallace (Blackrock), V Costello (St Mary's College), D Tweed (Ballymena), M O'Kelly (St Mary's College), E Miller (Leicester), A Foley (Shannon). Miller replaced by L Toland, Old Crescent, 50min)

SCOTLAND A: S Lang (Heriot's FP), C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), G Shiel (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), J Kerr (Watsonians), S Welsh (Hawick), G Armstrong (Newcastle, captain), M Browne (Melrose), D Ellis (Currie), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), P Walton (Newcastle), M Norval (Stirling County), D Cronin (Bourges), J Amos (Gala), B Renwick (Hawick).

Referee: J Pearson (RFU)

Too soon to look for signs of new professional era



Rob Andrew warns that old rivalries may make it difficult to play expansive rugby

What's in a name? Merely because rugby union can now call itself open and that certain players have become professional in the past three months, does not mean great change can possibly have taken place as we go into another five nations' championship in Paris and Dublin today.

Yes, we have new professional coaches with their own ideas about how to improve their teams. That is their job. The players will be expected to achieve higher levels of skill and fitness but transformation does not happen in so brief a time. It took rugby league in this country ten years to catch up with the Australian teams of the early 1980s who moved their code on so far.

Ten years — and that in an established professional sport. It will take years before rugby union has a new wave of players who are totally professional in their approach. So far we have only toyed with the concept: those of us who played international rugby tried to be professional in an amateur world but there is further to go than many of today's players appreciate.

Yet for all that, the old familiar buzz is back. Television, whose role in sport is now enormous, demands entertainment, but the first object of the sportsman is to win and in the five nations', quality sometimes comes second. That is partly because of the historical connotations attached to the championship that our southern-hemisphere friends do not always understand (although when New Zealand play their perennial rivals, Australia, both countries seem to rise above it).

So often skill levels become dragged down rather than elevated by the intensity of the battle. In England, we have tried to lift our sights beyond the five nations' but we have not always been successful; sometimes France, when selection is right and the game is flowing, show a calibre of game to compare with anywhere in the world.

It would be wonderful if all five teams went out to play positive rugby. How many times have England, for example, gone out with the best of intentions only to meet opponents intent on breaking down the English game as opposed to asserting their own? To be fair, England have done it, too. Refereeing plays its part: in the northern hemisphere the style is still not as conducive to keeping the game alive and any uncertainty causes doubts over what is required, particularly in teams — as this year — under reconstruction.

But I am looking forward to seeing what players such as Thomas Castaignède can do. He was involved as a 17-year-old junior training against the seniors when I was at Toulouse three years ago. He is small, powerful, very talented and it is great that France have put their trust in two young centres. They seem to be building an exciting team, not least with Christian Califano at prop, who could be one of the stars of the tournament. The French start as favourites, though that does not mean a thing. In any one game, the wheels can come off.

Maybe the key for France will be how their half backs perform. They have not had a settled pair since Pierre Berbizier and Didier Camberabero and now they have the experience of Thierry Lacroix alongside Philippe Carbonneau who did not even play scrum half for Toulouse in the recent Heineken Cup.

And England? Their backs are to the wall. For all the talk of expansive rugby and a fresh approach, they have a new-look side for whom the essence in Paris will be character. It is hard enough for experienced teams to change direction, never mind players settling into international rugby: today they need to produce backbone in defence, high-quality kicking, driving forward play and, if they do, then the decorative pieces may start to come.

Ireland could do well — or they might be turned over by Scotland despite the fact that the Scots appear to be at sixes and sevens. It is hard to forecast the future for either Scotland or Wales since they are going through such turbulent times, save to say that the Scots have a habit of making a little go a long way.

But my friend Nick Popplewell tells me that the Irish are a good bet for the grand slam this season and, who knows, maybe they can make Dublin the fortress it seemed to be in the mid-Eighties.

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Lansdowne Road, Kick-off 3.00pm.

WINNING MARGIN

FRANCE	WINNING MARGIN	ENGLAND
4/1	1-5 pts	9/2
7/2	6-10 pts	8/1
9/2	11-15 pts	16/1
7/1	16-20 pts	33/1
14/1	21-25 pts	66/1

14/1 Drawn match
Other margins on request.

IRELAND	WINNING MARGIN	SCOTLAND
7/2	1-5 pts	4/1
7/2	6-10 pts	7/1
5/1	11-15 pts	16/1
8/1	16-20 pts	28/1
14/1	21-25 pts	50/1

14/1 Drawn match
Other margins on request. Above margins are off scratch.

FIRST TRYSCORER

6/1	St. Andre	12/1	Dourthe
7/1	Ntamack	12/1	Guscott
8/1	Underwood	14/1	Carbonne
10/1	Sadourny	14/1	Carling
12/1	Castagne	14/1	Catt

Other players on request. Penalty tries do not count.

FIRST TRYSCORER

7/1	Geoghegan	12/1	McQuilkin
8/1	R. Wallace	12/1	Staples
10/1	Bell	14/1	Jardine
10/1	Joiner	16/1	Corkery
12/1	Dods	16/1	Hastings

Other players on request. Penalty tries do not count.

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HOCKEY 45
BRITAIN DRAW
COMFORT FROM
CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Powerful pack can beat France

England must go back to the forwards

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

HOW easily forgotten is the fact that, at the Parc des Princes here today, England go into rugby union's five nations' championship as the title defenders. But that was year 124 of rugby's old calendar for the international game and this is the first year of the new one.

The acceptance of open rugby marks a fundamental change of direction at the game's elite level, even though it is the logical culmination of events over the past 20 years. Yet still sporting cycles come and go and England, in the wake of a World Cup which brought them less than they hoped, are in the midst of refurbishment; so, too, are Scotland, who go to Dublin in a mood of pessimism even though Ireland have not beaten them since 1988.

Since winning their eleventh grand slam, against Scotland last March, England have lost direction, primarily because of the cataclysmic defeat by New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final in June. They have gone in search of a game which, because of the construction of their domestic rugby, they cannot have, so today they would do well to revert to the pattern of play that suits them.

If they cannot reclaim what they should regard as their heritage — powerful forward play, dependable rather than exhilarating back play — then this will be France's day. The French federation may be embroiled in the usual political wrangling, this time over the award of television contracts, but there is a relaxed air about their team and management, and appreciation that the new era, with its built-in demand for entertainment, should suit them.

While Jack Rowell, the England manager, snaps back at the critics who have dogged his heels through the autumnal travails against South Africa and Western Samoa, his opposite number, Jo Maso, seeks to combine the traditional excitement of French back play with the forward organisation that modern rugby demands.

In the selection at centre of Richard Dourthe and Thomas Castaignède, he sees a throwback to the great days of French centre play, of Codorniou and Trillo, of Maso himself in the 1970s. "Let's say that something of the Barbarian must always live in us," he says graphically, referring to the free spirit of the world's most famous invitation club.

That might be regarded as a flight of fancy were it not for the hard-nosed realism that exists in the France pack and without which Jean-Claude Skrela's concept, as coach, of total rugby would mean nothing. The French tight five is a formidable unit and their lineout incorporates no fewer than five players who can be regarded as ball-winners.

It includes young Fabien Pelous, who was played as a lock against New Zealand in the autumn but is now switched, in the manner traditionally beloved of France selectors, to No 8.

Pelous demonstrated against the All Blacks that he is a talented ball-handler; England will seek today to tie him in to the close-quarters demands of ball-winning while they develop the game which has proved so successful against France at the Parc in the past.

Today, too, France have their "South Africans" back: the three players who missed the series with New Zealand because of Bernard Lapasset, the federation president's decree that Thierry Lacroix, Olivier Roumat and Laurent Cabannes had returned too late to France after a summer of provincial South African rugby. How ironic that Lacroix's experience at stand-off half for Natal should now have helped him to the pivotal post in French rugby.

True, Lacroix has played in the No 10 jersey on five previous occasions, but invariably in an emergency. Now the player, who stands 15 points from the national record of 354 held by Didier Camberabero, comes into what he may consider his own: at Dax, his club, he is the *patron*, the boss of the back division. "I believe that I am now in my rightful place," he said this week. "When I was 22, I didn't understand why people said I was not made to be a stand-off. I tried to fill in all the holes."

Six years later, he appreciates the need to provide direction for others, though his opposite number, Paul Grayson, and Lawrence Dallagio, the England open-side flanker, will try to ensure he has as little time as possible in which to do so.

This is a big day for Grayson, none bigger: since England's winning run at the Parc began in 1990, it is fair to say that the most influential figure has been his predecessor, Rob Andrew, either as helmsman or points-scorer.

On Grayson and his club partner, Matt Dawson, falls the responsibility for shaping the game; but, if their forwards do not provide them with the means, their influence will be negligible.

So far this season, England's pack has lacked the coherence of yore: the recall of Steve Ojomoh is intended to add a dynamic which has been missing and Jason Leonard will hope to give Michel Périé the warmest of welcomes to international rugby though, at 26, the Toulon loose-head prop is no spring chicken.

The game's other debutant, Jon Sleightholme, on the England right wing, could not wish for a more testing start, but his senior colleagues will have told him no horror stories about Paris.

England have found the Parc a more rewarding venue than any other of the home unions and if, against the odds, they should do so again, then the worth will be more than the monetary value that open rugby places on the match today.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

FRANCE		ENGLAND
J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)	15	M J Catt (Bath)
E N'Tamack (Toulouse)	14	J M Sleightholme (Bath)
R Dourthe (Dax)	13	*W D C Carling (Harlequins)
T Castaignède (Toulouse)	12	J C Guscott (Bath)
*P St André (Montferrand)	11	R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)
T Lacroix (Dax)	10	P J Grayson (Northampton)
P Carbonneau (Toulouse)	9	M J S Dawson (Northampton)
M Périé (Toulon)	1	G C Rowntree (Leicester)
J Gonzalez (Bayonne)	2	M P Regan (Bristol)
C Califano (Toulouse)	3	J Leonard (Harlequins)
A Benazzi (Agen)	6	S Ojomoh (Bath)
O Merle (Montferrand)	4	M O Johnson (Leicester)
O Roumat (Dax)	5	M C Bayfield (Northampton)
L Cabannes (Racing)	7	L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)
F Pelous (Dax)	8	B B Clarke (Bath)

Referee: D T M McHugh (Ireland)

TV coverage: BBC1 2.0 * captain

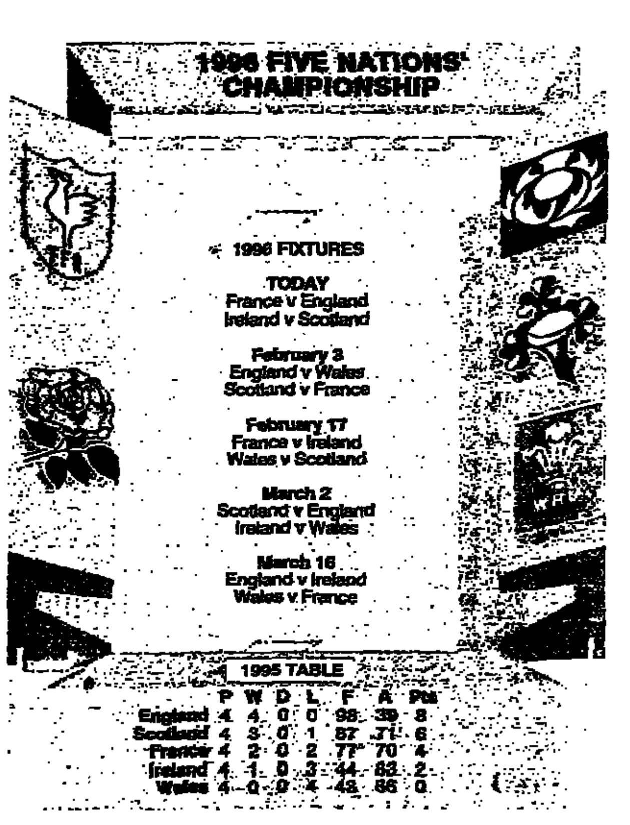
REPLACEMENTS: 16 P Bernat-Salles (Bègles-Bordeaux), 17 A Penaud (Brive), 18 G Accoceberry (Begles-Bordeaux), 19 L Bénézech (Racing), 20 M de Rougemont (Toulon), 21 R Castel (Toulouse).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 D Richards (Leicester)

FIVE NATIONS'

CHAMPIONSHIP

Tower of strength 46
Rob Andrew 47
Irish confident 47
Calm Townsend 47



1996 FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1996 FIXTURES

TODAY
France v England
Ireland v Scotland

February 3
England v Wales
Scotland v France

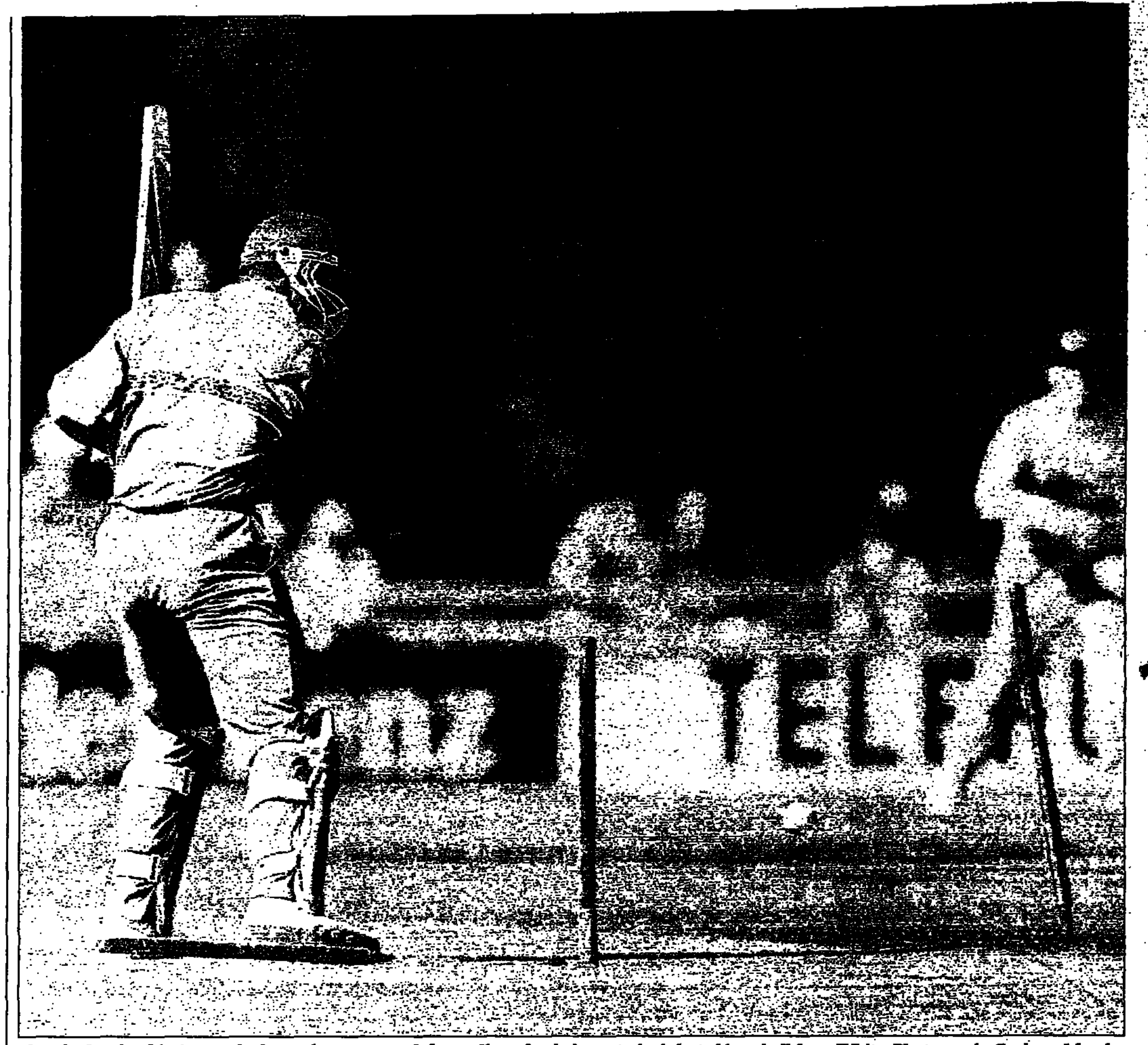
February 17
France v Ireland
Wales v Scotland

March 2
Scotland v England
Ireland v Wales

March 16
England v Ireland
Wales v France

1995 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	98	39	8
Scotland	4	3	0	1	87	71	6
France	4	2	0	2	77	70	4
Ireland	4	1	0	3	44	83	2
Wales	4	0	0	4	43	86	0



Cronje, South Africa's captain, has only one stump left standing after being utterly defeated by a ball from White. Photograph: Graham Morris

Small target too tall for England

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN EAST LONDON

EAST LONDON (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat England by 14 runs

ENGLAND'S tour of South Africa cannot now finish early enough. Last night, in the sixth one-day international here, they experienced a humiliation as great as any they have experienced in the past fortnight when they failed to reach a target of 130 against an attack lacking Allan Donald, their great tormentor.

At 75 for three after 28 overs, with Hick and Russell together and having just completed the only half-century partnership of the match, England appeared to be moving inexorably towards victory. Even their opponents seemed to concede as much.

But it was then that Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, took a gamble with his fledgling spin bowler, Paul Adams, who had not bowled since Hick took him apart in Cape Town in the first match of the series. With the first ball of his second over, Adams had Hick caught behind — admittedly it was a questionable decision. Hick's third in six innings — and with his next ball he bowled Thorpe through his legs with his stock ball.

After that wickets fell in rapid succession as England's remaining batsmen descended into panic brought on by so many recent defeats. Russell and Illingworth were both dismissed through suicidal running and no one had the confidence to take control, not even Fairbrother, who was last out for 13, his side's second-highest score after Hick's 39.

Gough and Martin, England's last two batsmen, had helped Fairbrother to add 20 but the margin of defeat was large for a match in which 20 wickets fell in 85 overs for 244 runs. England are now 5-1 down in the series with the final match to be played in Port Elizabeth tomorrow.

England should have won, if for no other reason than that they had the great advantage of batting second on a pitch that was difficult to read. Indeed, the pitch offered them some excuse for their defeat because it was quite unsuitable for such a high-profile occasion, which attracted yet another capacity crowd, this time of 17,000.

Even before the match was over, Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, had requested pitch reports from the umpires, the captains and the groundsman. In truth, the whole thing was a muddle. Originally, the match was to have been played on a relaid surface that was fast and bouncy but the authorities got cold feet and switched to what they thought would be a safe alternative.

It was so slow and low in bounce that it was a notable achievement for a bowler to get the ball to pass over the stumps, an experience that will at least have familiarised both sides with what awaits them on the Asian sub-continent when they go to the World Cup next month.

The question for all the batsmen was how to bat on such a surface. Few had much of an answer. South Africa were all out for 129 with 50 balls of their allocation unused, their lowest score in a one-day international at home; and England limped past their lowest of 93, which dates back 21 years to a World Cup meeting with Australia at Headingley.

Four South Africans failed to score, including Lance Klusener, 24, an all-rounder from Natal, who was playing for his country for the first time, and two Englishmen. Seven others could not reach double figures.

Both pinch-hitters failed, Snell for South Africa and White for England. White at least tried to follow his brief, before giving a catch at the wicket, but Snell did a passable impersonation of an orthodox opener before seemingly giving up in despair.

It was certainly not easy to hit over the inner ring of fielders. Kirsten, who would have been run out on six but for Thorpe's curious decision to field the ball with his feet, was one of the first to try but holed out to a good leaping catch by Smith at deep mid-on.

Rhodes fell in a similar way, though not before he had kept McMillan company for 12 overs, the longest partnership of South Africa's innings and, at 35 runs, the most productive.

McMillan was the first batsman, and perhaps the only one other than Hick, to find a *modus operandi*. He did not try anything rash and worked the ball around, scoring an unbeaten 45. His lively little partnership of 30 with de Villiers proved crucial.

Subba Row's role, page 42

EAST LONDON SCOREBOARD

South Africa won toss

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Smith b Cork	17
R P Snell c Atherton b Martin	8
*W J Cronje b White	13
J H Kallis lbw b Martin	0
B M McMillan not out	45
J N Rhodes c Gough b Illingworth	10
L Klusener lbw b Gough	0
S M Pollock b Gough	6
†D J Richardson lbw b Gough	0
P S de Villiers b White	15
P R Adams b Cork	0
Extras (b 1, lb 11, w 1, nb 2)	15
Total (41.4 overs)	129

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-25, 2-29, 3-29, 4-54, 5-89, 6-89, 7-98, 8-98, 9-128

BOWLING: Cork 8.4-1-22-2; Martin 7-0-23-2; Gough 10-1-25-3; White 7-1-18-2; Illingworth 9-1-29-1.

ENGLAND

*M A Atherton c Richardson b de Villiers	6
C White c Richardson b de Villiers	6
R A Smith b Pollock	0
G A Hick c Kirsten b Adams	39
†R C Russell run out	12
G P Thorpe b Adams	0
N H Fairbrother b Snell	13
D G Cork b Adams	2
R K Illingworth run out	1
D Gough lbw b Snell	4
P J Martin not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 13, w 12, nb 1)	27
Total (43.4 overs)	115

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-11, 3-19, 4-75, 5-76, 6-78, 7-88, 8-95, 9-104.

BOWLING: Pollock 10-3-15-1; de Villiers 8-1-10-2; Klusener 4-0-19-0; Snell 9.4-2-22-2; Kallis 3-0-9-0; Adams 9-1-26-3.

Umpires: C J Mitchley and D L Orchard.

Referee: C W Smith (West Indies).

SERIES DETAILS: Jan 9: Cape Town: South Africa won by six runs. Jan 11: Bloemfontein: England won by five wickets. Jan 13: Johannesburg: South Africa won by three wickets. Jan 14: Pretoria: South Africa won by seven wickets. Jan 17: Durban: South Africa won by five wickets.

MATCH TO COME: Jan 21: Port Elizabeth.

EC threatens action on foreign players ruling

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

FIFA, football's world governing body, and Uefa, the European governing body, have been given a final warning by the European Commission (EC). If they do not abolish the rule that restricts clubs from playing a maximum of three foreign players, and annul the transfer fee system, they could face fines or court action. The EC has given them six weeks to comply.

Both practices were declared illegal by the European Court of Justice last month. It stated that they violated the European Union law that bars agreements which restrict competition. The judgment was based on a European Union treaty article guaranteeing workers the right to move freely within the union.

The EC said it had told Fifa and Uefa in a letter that it would open formal legal proceedings against them and lift their immunity from fines if they did not give a satisfactory response. An EC spokesman said yesterday: "The matter is out of our hands. The European Court has handed down a judgment and we have no option but to take steps to ensure it is complied with."

Although the EC has made it clear it wants to see the court judgment honoured in full, it is up to the British courts to decide whether the transfer ruling applies to transfers within the United Kingdom. This will happen if a player decides to challenge the continuation of the system, which is worth an estimated £100 million a year in fees between British clubs.

Uefa angered the EC earlier this week by saying that it would continue to maintain its "three-plus-two" rule, which limits teams to fielding a maximum of three foreign players and two "assimilated" foreigners in European club competitions. An assimilated player is one who has lived in the country for five years or has played in his club's youth team.

Uefa argued that the court ruling, which ended a five-year legal battle by Jean-Marc Bosman, the Belgian player, allowed it to maintain the three-plus-two policy because teams in European competitions also represent their countries. A Uefa spokeswoman said yesterday: "We cannot comment on this as we have not received any letter. When we do and have studied it, we shall issue an official press release."

Sinton moves, page 43

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1996

DOCTOR DOLITTLE AND HER WILD IDEA

By Sam Kiley

Toto flicked his head backwards, catching the tiny woman under the ribcage with his forehead as his tusks passed either side of her body, and sent her backwards in a half somersault on to a pile of his dung. "Don't you bloody well do that with me," said the middle-aged English academic, as she staggered back towards the one-and-a-half *ton adolescent* bull elephant. I winced. Not for Dr Marthe Kiley-Worthington, but in anticipation of what Toto now faced.

"It's time you learnt some manners," she spat through clenched teeth, bracing her shoulders and drawing herself up to her full height of five foot two.

More than a passing acquaintance with the doctor — she is my mother — has taught me that Toto was in for it. Any second now, I thought, and she was going to give the poor fellah a straight right at the top of his trunk, the sensitive site of the organ-pipe complex of sinuses he uses to rumble, trumpet, and communicate in subsonic booms with the other five members of his group. I'd seen her push a cow off its feet for having trodden on her own; and, in a fit of anthropomorphic rage, thrash a Massey Ferguson tractor with a monkey wrench, Basil Fawlty-style, for refusing to start.

In the moments it took for my mother to regain her composure, and summon the science she was harnessing to train a group of Zimbabwean elephants, I foresaw Toto's "voice" reduced to the effeminate hoots and beeps of a Mini Metro.

But the doctor was on her best behaviour. She had been invited by Norman Travers to his Imire Ranch — set amid tobacco fields and small hills 105km from Harare — to debunk the myth that African elephants cannot be trained, much less put to any use. After all, thumping pachyderms was hardly consistent with her "animal education" principles of "positive reinforcement".

Humans daring enough to disagree with the doctor — herself the leathery product of a childhood in the Congo and Kenya — are treated to the full cut from the serrated edge of her tongue. In normal discourse, her vocabulary is not so much blue as deep purple. With animals like Toto, however, she is capable of other-worldly patience and a level of empathy she has never shown for her own kind. "He's getting fed up. We'll change the exercise," was Toto's only punishment.

Under orders from my editor to spend a week observing the doctor in much the same way as she has studied animal subjects for her five books — among them *The Behaviour of Horses, Animals in Circuses and Zoos, Chiron's World*, and *Eco-Agriculture: Food First Farming* — I finally answered a question that had always niggled me: why are some people better at getting along with animals rather than their own kind? The

Continued on page 5, col 1

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ROYAL BIOGRAPHY

‘Life had been difficult and rootless for Philip almost from the start…’

Elizabeth’s story

TODAY

■ Concluding our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, we examine the royal childhoods: Philip’s troubled and independent early years, the young Princess’s privileged and cosy upbringing with nanny

■ The biographer behind the ballyhoo: on the facing page, **Mary Riddell** talks to *Elizabeth* author Sarah Bradford about what she revealed and omitted, how she is coping with instant infamy, and why she opted to publish and be damned

PHILIP’S CHILDHOOD

Prince Philip was, by blood at least, more royal than his uncle Mountbatten and more closely linked to the British Royal Family. Born in 1921, he was the son of Mountbatten’s elder sister, Princess Alice, and Prince Andrew of Greece.

On his mother’s side he was a direct descendant of Queen Victoria; through his father he was, like his first cousin, Princess Marina, descended not only from the Greek/Danish royal family but also from the Russian imperial family, his grandfather, George I of the Hellenes (Queen Alexandra’s brother “Willy”), having married the Grand Duchess Olga, granddaughter of Tsar Nicholas I.

Prince Philip’s father was one of their seven children. Prince Philip was the youngest child and only son of Prince Andrew and Princess Alice: he had four sisters and was seven years younger than the youngest of them.

Life had been difficult and rootless for him almost from the start. Born in 1921 on the kitchen table of the family villa, Mon Repos, in Corfu, he was a refugee less than a year later when George V sent a British warship to rescue his family from the latest Greek coup (his father, Prince Andrew, would probably have been shot by the leaders had it not been for British intervention).

> ‘Philip is killingly funny. I like him very much’

The Greek royal family had never been rich in royal terms. As nominal rulers of one of the poorest countries in Europe and occupants of probably the most insecure throne, they had had neither time nor opportunity to accumulate valuable possessions.

Prince Philip’s parents were in many ways an ill-matched couple. His father, Prince Andrew, was described by his youngest daughter as “delightful, extrovert, with a colossal sense of humour, very amusing”. Prince Philip, who got on extremely well with his father when he was around, which was increasingly rarely, inherited his father’s forehead and the shape of his head, and his mother’s fine nose and lips.

Princess Alice had been very deaf from childhood, but she had learnt to lip-read in several languages. She was very strict with her children; Prince Philip’s relationship with her was good if not superficially affectionate.

She was as courageous and independent-minded as he was. While living in German-occupied Athens during the Second World War (when she lost more than 40lb living off flour mixed with warm water), she saved the lives of two Jews, a mother and daughter. They had two rooms at the top of Prince George’s house, where she lived, and when the Germans came to look for them, Princess Alice pretended to be not only deaf but half-witted, so they went away.

Princess Alice did not play a part in her son’s adolescence. When Philip was only ten, a very vulnerable age, his world began to crumble around him, not for the first or the last time. His mother had a breakdown, apparently caused by the menopause, and was sent for treatment to Vienna and Berlin. The house where they were living at St Cloud, in Paris, was given up and Prince Philip’s father went off to live in the South of France.

By 1931 all his sisters had married German aristocrats: Princess Sophie, the youngest, known as “Tiny”, married Prince Christopher of Hesse at the age of 16 in 1930; his three other sisters all married in 1931 — Margarita to Prince Godfrey of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, Theodora, known as “Dolla”, to Berthold, Margrave of Baden, and Cecile to George Donatus, Prince of Hesse and the Rhine.

Prince Philip was sent to Cheam, the preparatory school in England, to which he was later to dispatch Prince Charles. Cheam was followed by a brief two terms in Germany at the school founded by Kurt Hahn at Schloss Salem, home of Philip’s sister Dolla and her husband Berthold, later to become better known after its transition to Scotland as Gordonstoun.

Hahn, a German Jew, was arrested after the Nazis came to power in 1933 and, after the intervention of highly placed British friends, fled to Britain where he founded Gordonstoun. In 1934 Philip was sent to school there, a formative experience which he was to insist his sons must share.

As a teenager, despite being a member of a large extended family, Philip was very much on his own. Friends at Gordonstoun remember there always being uncertainty as to where he should spend his holidays. He was fond of his third sister Cecile’s husband, George Donatus of Hesse, and spent most of his holidays with them at Wolfsgarten or in Darmstadt, but this haven came to a tragic end when Cecile and George were killed in an air crash in 1937 en route for the London wedding of George’s younger brother, Prince Ludwig.

In London, Philip stayed at Kensington Palace with his Mountbatten grandmother, the Dowager Marchioness of Milford Haven. “He was very independent,” his sister said, “and he and his grandmother had frightful tussles of will.” His Mountbatten cousins remember seeing Philip race up the stairs at Kensington Palace, stopping at the top to stick his tongue out at her.

He also stayed in the country with his mother’s brother George, Marquess of Milford Haven, and his exotic lesbian Russian wife, Nadejda. In 1938, the year of Cecile’s death, George Milford Haven died of cancer, leaving Prince Philip in the occasional care of his younger brother, Lord Louis.

At this point in Prince Philip’s career, Lord Louis did not represent the “surrogate father” he is often made out to be. He was only beginning to take an interest in his nephew, who seems to have first visited Adsdean, the Mountbattens’ country house, in the spring of 1938, accompanied by his cousin, David Milford Haven. “Philip was here all last week doing his entrance exams for the Navy,” Mountbatten wrote to his wife in terms which suggest this was his first prolonged encounter with his nephew at close quarters. “He had his meals with us and he really is killingly funny. I like him very much.”

According to Mountbatten’s official biographer, the decision that Philip should join the Navy and not, as he had first chosen, the Air Force, was Mountbatten’s. It was as a result of this decision that when, in July 1939, the King, the Queen and the two Princesses, accompanied by Mountbatten, made an official visit to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth on the yacht, *Victoria & Albert*, his nephew, Elizabeth’s cousin, was a cadet there.

“Philip accompanied us and dined on board,” Mountbatten noted briefly in his diary on July 22, 1939, and the next day: “Philip came back aboard *V&A* for tea and was a great success with the children.”

Philip was extremely handsome: tall with Nordic good looks, blond hair and fine features. He was confident and, Crawfie thought, a bit of a show-off and “rather offhand in his manner”. The crucial meeting between him and Elizabeth took place at the Captain’s House at Dartmouth. He joined the Princesses playing with a clockwork train on the nursery floor, but, not surprisingly, soon got bored with the childish amusement and suggested going to the tennis courts and jumping over the nets instead.

The key to Philip’s character is that he has had to be self-reliant and independent since the age of ten. Since the family broke up at St Cloud in 1930, he had had nowhere that he could call home, just a succession of relatives’ houses, schools, ships. By 1946 he was virtually an orphan. His father, Prince Andrew, had died on December 3, 1944, in Monte Carlo, while Philip was at sea.

Philip had, therefore, been unable even to attend his father’s funeral; after the war he and Mike Parker, a naval friend, travelled to Monaco to collect from the Prince’s mistress all that he had left to bequeath to his son — a pair of hairbrushes and cufflinks and some trunks full of old suits.

At his grandmother’s home in Kensington Palace, Philip kept trunks described by his valet as “donkey’s years old” crammed with junk from childhood and schooldays — even baby clothes — as if he wanted to be able to cling on to some tangible identity in his rootless life. His mother was still in Athens, where she founded an order of nuns and where his uncle, George of Greece, had obtained his throne back as a result of a plebiscite in 1946 and was now installed as King George II of the Hellenes.

The remainder of his family, his three surviving sisters, were all living in Germany, fortunately for them in the Allied Zone. His sister Princess Sophie, widowed when her husband, Prince Christopher of Hesse, was killed in Italy during the war, was about to marry again, to Prince George of Hanover. Philip borrowed a Canadian army vehicle and dashed across war-ravaged Europe to turn up unexpectedly at the wedding at Salem in May 1946.

He was not only virtually homeless but also practically penniless, with only his naval pay to live on — just enough to run a black MG sports car. On his return to England he went to a naval training establishment at Corsham, near Bath, called *HMS Royal Arthur*. Whenever he had leave, he would dash up to London and beg a bed at the Mountbattens’ house at 16 Chester Street while they were spending the weekend at Broadlands.

The Mountbatten servants loved him: “He was so considerate, so anxious to avoid giving trouble to people who, after all, were paid to look after the family, that we all thought the world of him.”

● *Edited extracts from* Elizabeth. A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, *to be published by William Heinemann on January 24, £20.*

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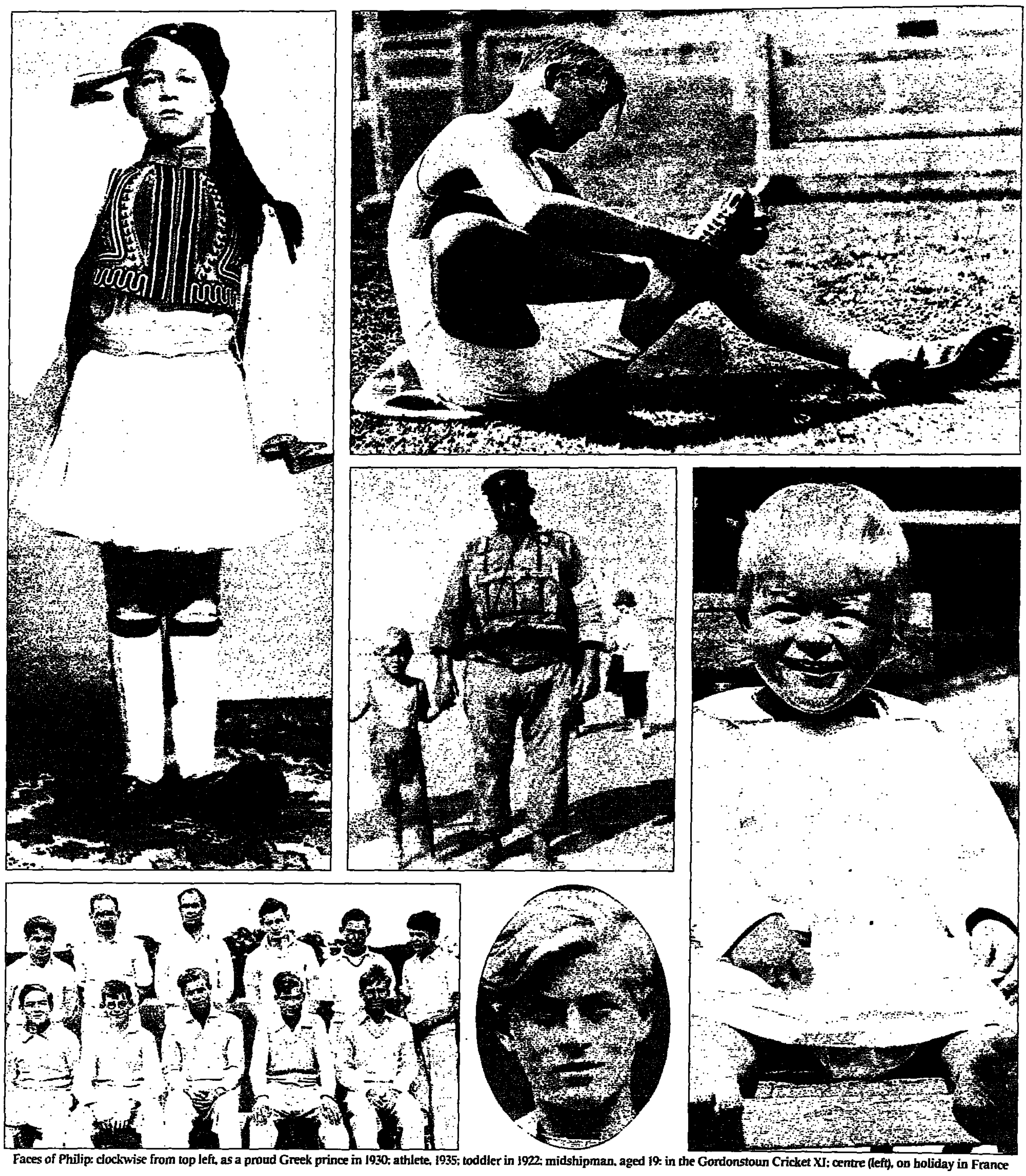

Faces of Philip: clockwise from top left, as a proud Greek prince in 1930; athlete, 1935; toddler in 1922; midshipman, aged 19; in the Gordonstoun Cricket XI; centre (left), on holiday in France

ELIZABETH’S CHILDHOOD

Elizabeth saw a good deal more of her parents than most children of her age and class, certainly more than the children of the international smart set who were left behind as their parents visited each other’s houses for weekends or holidayed in Venice and the South of France in summer and at ski resorts such as Kitzbühel in winter. The Yorks never went abroad except on duty.

The Duchess of York taught Elizabeth to read, much as her mother had taught her, reading Bible stories aloud on Sunday mornings and “the right sort of books” on winter evenings. They would sing songs around the piano after tea and then start on children’s stories — *Alice, Black Beauty, Peter Pan* — and “anything about horses and dogs”.

In the spring of 1932, Miss Crawford joined the Yorks’ household as Elizabeth’s governess. Marion Crawford was a tall, slim, 23-year-old Scots girl, independent-minded and ambitious, who had trained at Moray House in Edinburgh teaching underprivileged children.

Crawfie first saw Elizabeth sitting up in bed driving an imaginary horse with a pair of toy reins. When asked if she usually drove in bed, Elizabeth replied seriously: “I mostly go once or twice round the park before I go to sleep. It exercises my horses.”

She and Margaret had a collection of more than 30 toy horses, each one of which would be solemnly unsaddled before they went to bed. Her favourite games involved toy horses and she groomed, fed and watered them, keeping the necessary brushes and pails lined up in the corridor outside her nursery.

At their first meeting, Crawfie had been struck by the “long, comprehensive look” the child gave her. The six-year-old Elizabeth already had a sharp and critical eye (“She never misses a thing,” her friends and courtiers would later say of her).

Crawfie found Elizabeth almost too self-disciplined: her passion for orderliness amounting almost to an obsession. She would sort the coffee sugar crystals given by her parents as a treat after luncheon into sizes, while Margaret simply gulped them down.

After Crawfie once told her sententiously, “nothing is impossible if you try hard enough”, Elizabeth took her at her word and went on trying night after night to place her shoes exactly parallel under her chair, with her clothes carefully folded on it.

Education was not at a premium in the York family. As Crawfie recalled: “No one ever had employers who interfered so little. I had the feeling that the Duke and Duchess, most happy in their own married life, were not overconcerned with the higher education of their daughters.”

As far as other children were concerned, the children’s life was by no means as isolated as Crawfie made out in her book, although the circle of their friends was exclusive. There were frequent children’s parties at 145 Piccadilly.

Elizabeth had a particular friend named Sonia Graham-Hodgson, the daughter of a distinguished Harley Street radiologist. Exquisitely dressed in party dresses by Allah [Clara Knight, their nurse], the Princesses would go out to other children’s parties, which the nannies enjoyed more than the children did.

Ordinarily, Elizabeth’s day would start with a visit to her parents’ bedroom after breakfast, then a morning of half-hour lessons with a break for

Book offer

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'...From the age of ten, Elizabeth was used to pomp and ceremony'

Elizabeth's life: clockwise from top left, at Olympia, 1932; tired, with her mother; watching the King; and at a birthday party

elevenses and recreation, followed by reading before lunch, which the girls would usually eat with their parents when at home.

Singing, dancing, music or drawing lessons took place in the afternoon, followed by tea, when, in the days before he became besotted with Wallis Simpson, Uncle David would often join them and stay for card games (his home, York House in St James's Palace, being only a short walk away). Then it would be bathtime, attended by their mother and father, and riotous games such as pillow fights in the *nursery until Allah called time* for bed.

Elizabeth was, of course, unaware of the problems which Uncle David was already causing his family. The likelihood of the Prince of Wales marrying a suitable girl now seemed increasingly remote.

From the day her father *became* King, when she was ten, Elizabeth was becoming accustomed to the extraordinary pomp and ceremony surrounding her parents, so that to her it appeared a normal part of life. This included the swarm of Household and staff with medieval-sounding names: the Lord Chamberlain, the Keeper of the Privy Purse, the Mistress of the Robes, the Yeomen of the Silver and Gold and of the China and Glass Pantry, the Pages of the Chambers, the Pages of the Backstairs and of the Presence (all adult men, not boys as their titles would suggest).

The King and Queen were already training Elizabeth for the day when she would be at the head of this vast establishment. Since she had become the obvious heir to the Throne, they were taking her education more seriously. "I have started my daughter on Latin," the Duchess of York had told Osbert Sitwell in January 1935.

Elizabeth was often there when her parents entertained diplomats to lunch. On one such occasion in 1937, Sir Miles Lampson, the British envoy to Cairo, was amused to see the King fiddling with the knobs of his recently acquired television set, unable to make it work.

"Long before most children do," Crawfie wrote, "Lilibet took an interest in politics, and knew quite a bit about what was going on in the world outside ... the King would also talk to his elder daughter more seriously than most fathers do to so young a child ... it was as if he spoke to an equal."

Her parents were anxious that she and her sister should, as far as possible, feel that they were ordinary children and a part of the world beyond the Palace walls. The result was the formation of the 1st Buckingham Palace Company of Girl Guides (at Elizabeth's insistence, two Brownies were added to the Palace Company so that Margaret, too young to be a fully-fledged Guide, should not feel left out). The idea was that it should be a substitute for going out to school, so that the Princesses should meet and play with and compete with other children on an equal basis.

As an exercise in democracy, it was somewhat limited. "They were all dukes' daughters and Mountbattens — it wasn't at all democratic," one former member said. The other girls were expected to curtsy to the Princesses. The first meeting, Crawfie recalled, was spoilt by the attendant nannies and governesses, while the children wore their best party frocks and white gloves.

Some of the more pampered children were shown up in a game which involved taking off their shoes and piling them in a heap in the middle of the floor, then finding them, putting them back on and racing to see who could get back to the starting line first. "This never went very well," Crawfie wrote, "as quite half the children did not know their own shoes! Lilibet and Margaret told me this with scorn. There was never any nonsense of that kind in *their* nursery."

The education of women was not considered important in royal and aristocratic circles, where it was regarded merely as a necessary tool for those unfortunates who would have to earn their living and irrelevant to the needs of girls whose destiny was marriage. Queen Mary seems to have been the only member of the family who was concerned that the girls should be well educated. She remonstrated with her daughter-in-law over the fact that the children's education was confined to their governess.

"I don't know what she meant," the Duchess of York told a friend. "After all, I and my sisters only had governesses and we all married well — one of us *very* well ..."

PICTURE CREDITS

Clockwise from top left:
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Under siege but unbowed

If a week is a long time in politics, it is an eternity in the life of a beleaguered royal biographer. For the past seven days, Sarah Bradford's home has been besieged, her answer machine clogged, even her former husband approached by those hoping for some bit of salacious gossip. In addition, her hyacinths have rotted away through neglect.

Bar the hyacinths, Bradford regrets little. She remains, however, astonished that the serialisation of her biography of the Queen should have provoked such interest and outcry.

When she began, six years ago, her project was seen almost as anorak prose — the biographical equivalent of train spotting. "The Queen?" friends would ask, bemused. "How dull."

"I thought they were quite wrong. The way she operates, the way she lives... how could that be dull?" Events have proved more exciting than she might have wished, but she was unshakeable.

As a respected and established biographer, she had already laid the foundations for her latest work. Her book on George VI was the first step. "This was a natural progression. I knew all the personal sources, all the archival sources, and I wanted to carry on."

In those days, as she is quick to point out, the Royal Family remained unsullied by scandal. The Prince of Wales was, so far as the public knew, still ensconced in a fairy-tale marriage. There was no hint that royal biography was to become the black art of literary seance.

But even then, Bradford knew her brief reference to the fact that the Duke of Edinburgh may have been unfaithful — which has largely caused this week's furore — would be contentious.

"I started with a completely open mind. Then you're faced with the problem we're talking about, and you realise you cannot dodge it. It is part of their relationship — the wise way the Queen has dealt with it, by allowing him complete independence and not inquiring. If I had dodged it, I could have been accused of writing propaganda. I hope I've put it in context. It's not important in terms of the marriage, which has always been a very strong relationship.

"I hoped too that it might stop all sorts of 'nudge nudge, wink wink' stories." In this Bradford was, if not naive, then certainly optimistic.

Many anecdotes proffered to her on a range of matters, she chose to omit. "You do have to think about the consequences. Some stories are too bad to mention, and I wouldn't touch them — true or not."

Nevertheless, among much unctuous hand-wringing by the moralisers, among the headlines citing royal "dismay" and Palace "bombshells", Bradford has not escaped scrutiny. Her sources, her Viscountess title, her reputation, even her figure (she is reported to munch while writing) have all been unkindly and meticulously raked over. Some of it she finds simply funny.

"Someone wrote about my bourgeois family and the defunct Irish peerage. My husband is not defunct. He is alive. You *can see him upstairs.*"

As for the slurs on her reputation, she is sanguine. Her contacts, she knows, are impeccable. "People are at liberty to impugn my reputation, although those who know me know I do not say things without foundation." But neither will she identify those impeccable sources who have helped her. "I'm not in the business of naming names either. That way, if there's any flak over this book, then I get it."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Taking the flak: Sarah Bradford

She is too honest to pretend that her book has not also stung those whose lives it uncovers. "My job is to try to get inside the Queen's mind, to put the picture painstakingly together from evidence. I don't suppose she's utterly delighted, or that she can understand my motivation. But if you write biography, you have to tell the whole truth."

Nor, she imagines, will Princess Margaret — portrayed as trapped in endless unsuitable relationships, unhappy, threatening suicide — be rushing out to place a bulk order. "Princess Margaret will be jolly annoyed; but no, it won't have caused her pain. She'll say it's disgraceful, no doubt, but I've explained why she is how she is."

The troubles were not all born of meticulous research. The Princess of Wales's *Panorama* interview, the Queen's divorce letter — every new twist in the royal plot had to be incorporated into her book. And now it is finished and the copies are stacked for sale, the saga rambles on. She has not been astonished by the latest twist — the Queen's refusal *to underwrite* the *Duchess of York's seven-figure* overdraft. She knows her subject too well for that.

"She seems to be taking a tougher line all round. Fergie may once have been the indulged daughter-in-law, but not now. The Queen is concerned about the bad effect this consumer spending of the younger royals has on the public. She's not prepared to sub up any more, and I think that's right."

Bradford is a direct woman, accustomed to directness in return. She is also sternly critical of herself, and where she has regrets she is ready to admit them. She is sorry now, she says, that she mentioned — although not by name — the lady-in-waiting who pointed out to the Queen the Duke's roving eye, lost her job and subsequently committed suicide.

The paperchase was elementary, she acknowledges, for the newspapers which did choose to name her. "That was very distressing, and I think it's awful."

Otherwise, she is unbowed and unrepentant. How easy for critics to accuse her of cashing in, but, as she points out, at the time she embarked on her book, royal biography was scarcely goldmine territory. "I certainly wasn't in it for the money. In 1990 no one was paying millions for that sort of thing."

Titled, a former debutante, she would appear to her detractors the ideal infiltrator. One of us. A woman silkily placed to infiltrate royal circles and glean what scurrilous detail she might.

But she is unafraid. "If you are convinced that what you have done is right, nothing is a problem. I have my reputation as a serious writer, someone who doesn't invent, who keeps confidentiality and does her homework. I have to live with myself. That is what is important."

Her book will be on sale within days, which, she says, will be an immense relief, for then both her detractors and the many who have phoned with messages of goodwill can make up their own minds.

And she will be able to start a new project — not, it may be a relief to hear, the House of Windsor. "No, that's enough for a bit. So don't expect *Queen Two*."

MARY RIDDELL

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

LEON MORRIS/REDFERNS

The main attraction: José Neto will be performing his apocalyptic guitar solos with the high-octane fusion band Fourth World at Ronnie Scott's in London (see Jazz)

JAZZ AND CABARET

Clive Davis

FOURTH WORLD: Airto Moreira's high-octane fusion band, Fourth World, offers a breathtaking impersonation of a tropical thunderstorm. The combination of Moreira's incandescent percussion, Flora Purim's multi-octave vocals and José Neto's apocalyptic guitar solos has made the group one of the most popular attractions at Ronnie Scott's in recent years.
Fourth World: **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), tonight to Sat Feb 10, support set from 9.30pm.

NICOL WILLIAMSON/MARTY GROSZ: Given his fiery reputation, Nicol Williamson's cabaret audience could be forgiven for laying bets on whether the distinguished Shakespearean and all-round hellraiser will storm off the stage before he reaches his final number. Accompanied by the pianist Cliff Hall and the guitarist Chris Rae, he will be re-visiting his favourite jazz standards. Every bit as colourful as Williamson, Marty Grosz is a master of 1920s sweet jazz and shaggy dog stories. Beware his insidious puns and *doubles entendres*: this is the man who brought us the immortal album *Songs I Learned at My Mother's Knee and Other Low Joints*.
Williamson: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 22 to Sat 27, 9.15pm, 11.15pm.
Grosz: **Pizza Express**, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 8722), Wed 24, Thur 25, Sat 27, 8.30pm; **Pizza Express**, Earl St, Maidstone (01622 683548), Fri 26.

DANCE

John Percival

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY: For 50 years this has been the Royal Ballet's signature tune, even if the kinky designs commissioned by Anthony Dowell for the present production clash with its status as the most magnificent of 19th-century classical ballets. It returns to the repertoire today for a run of 15 performances spread over a month. The title role is danced by Muriel Valtat this afternoon, Viviana Durante tonight and Thursday, Miyako Yoshida on Monday, Sylvie Guillem on Tuesday and Friday, and Leanne Benjamin on Wednesday.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), today, 2pm and 7pm; Mon 22 to Fri 26, 7.30pm; Mon 29, Wed 31, February 1, 6, 20, 22 at 7.30pm; February 3, 2pm and 7pm. ♿

SPRING DANCE '96: Nottingham Playhouse presents a week of performances by three dance companies. The African ensemble Adzido opens with *Thand'Abantwana* ("Love the Children") on Monday and Tuesday; V-Tol gives Mark Murphy's *In the Privacy of My Own* on Thursday; and, on Friday, Mark Baldwin's company premieres *Mirrors*, a murder mystery developed on computer, with music by Ravel.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus, Nottingham (0115 941 9419), Mon 22 to Fri 26, 7.30pm. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

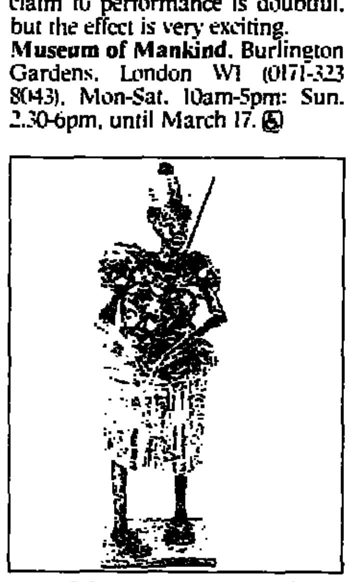
RICHARD WENTWORTH: Be prepared for a shock at Christ Church's venerable Picture Gallery. Many of the Old Masters have been removed from the walls, and in their place the sculptor Richard Wentworth has hung paintings he discovered in the storeroom. Outside, books half-buried in the Dean's Lawn convey Wentworth's ambivalent feelings about the atmosphere of learning. This exhibition is a pilot project, organised in collaboration with The Laboratory at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. They hope it will lead to the creation of an annual Visual Arts Fellowship at the University, and so do I.
Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford (01865 276172), until Jan 31.

DAVID HOCKNEY: Now entering its final week, Hockney's Drawing Retrospective at the Royal Academy is immensely enjoyable. The wild, graffiti-like vigour of his early drawings gives way to stillness when he discovers California. Water-sprinklers cascade over empty lawns, and although some of these images are cool, none explore negative emotions. Only in recent years has Hockney departed from his optimistic vision — most powerfully in the gaunt head studies of his old friend Henry Geldzahler, fading away on his death-bed.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7438), until Jan 28. ♿

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

PLAY AND DISPLAY: Sokari Douglas Camp features in this exhibition both as sculptor and as curator: she has been asked to select works from the permanent collection of the Museum of Mankind to complement her own new works. She comes from the Kalabari area of Nigeria, where a feature of local culture is the exclusively male art of the masquerade, in which the young men, elaborately caparisoned, dance and play drums. Five huge steel figures by Camp, evoking the masqueraders, dominate the show, but they are put into a context of video and audio recordings. Whether Camp has managed to assert a female claim to performance is doubtful, but the effect is very exciting.
Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (0171-323 8043), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until March 17. ♿



Art of the masquerade: *Iriabo* by Sokari Douglas Camp

WILLY RONIS: A contemporary of Doisneau and Cartier-Bresson, this French photographer is now 85 and much less known than either. Partly this is because he deliberately withdrew from the Parisian photographic scene in 1956, and was not rediscovered until 1979. In the 1940s and early 1950s he was a successful member of the Rapho agency, but he parted company with them over the political ends to which his pictures were turned. Certainly to judge by the more than 250 pictures in this show, his values have always been humane rather than specifically political.
Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (01203 524524), Mon-Sat, noon-9pm, until March 16. ♿

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: If you want a soft, meek Jacobean heroine in period velvet, avoid Cheek by Jowl's revival of Webster's thunderer. Anastasia Hille's Duchess stalks coolly about in Edwardian gowns, and proceeds to give her vengeful twin, Scott Handy's Ferdinand, the odd slap around the chops. She, though powerless, is tough and he, though powerful, is weak: one of many unconventional twists in a production that, as directed by Declan Donnellan, always fascinates.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, London WC1 (0171-369 1746). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinées: Thur, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE JUNGLE BOOK: Tim Supple's version of the Mowgli stories is as true to Kipling as his Grimm Tales were to the bloodthirsty German brothers, and makes even more demands on lively imaginations. Supple's cast makes you believe that a bulky bare-headed man with a pole is a mesmeric python, a raging fellow with an animal skin over his shoulders is a killer tiger and a circle of red earth is the animal-crammed Indian jungle.
Young Vic, The Cut, London SE1 (0171-928 6363). Evenings: Sat 20 and Tues 23 to Sat 27, 7pm; matinées: Sat 20 and Sat 27 at 2.30pm, Mon 22 at 10.30am, Tues 23 and Thur 25 at 1.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

BJORK: The Icelandic chanteuse has conquered hearts and charts with her loopy version of Betty Hutton's old showtune *It's Oh So Quiet*. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. Often seductive and always startling, in concert she deploys a voice as sweet and sour as summer fruit, ranging across the fields of jazz, torch singing, reggae, Indian music and indie-rock. With two Brit Awards for her first album *(Début)* under her belt, she is back among the nominees for this year's event.
G-Mex, Manchester ♿ (0161-832 9000), Jan 20; **Bournemouth International Centre** ♿ (01202 297297), Jan 22; **Wembley Arena** ♿ (0181-900 1234), Jan 25.

Sweet and sour Björk: cool sounds from the Icelandic singer

THE MAVERICKS: America's hottest country band originated in Miami not Nashville, and draws inspiration from the ballad singing of Roy Orbison, easy-listening crooners such as Tony Bennett and more predictable role models such as Buck Owens. It's a formula which has put the Mavericks in the forefront of a wave of modern acts, including k.d. lang, Lyle Lovett, Chris Isaak and Alison Krauss, who have lifted country music out of its specialist ghetto and restored it to its rightful place at the heart of mainstream popular music.
Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 25, 26; **University of East Anglia**, Norwich ♿ (01603 505401), Jan 28; **Manchester University** ♿ (0161-275 2930), Jan 29; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-227 5511), Jan 30.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15): Atmospheric version of Walter Mosley's crime novel. Charismatic Denzel Washington takes the role of Mosley's amateur detective Easy Rawlins. Hired to find a mysterious lady — the devil in a blue dress — he stumbles over the usual debris: corpses, police, politicians and corruption. Director Carl Franklin fills the film with humour and dramatic surprises.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): "I came here to drink myself to death!" Nicolas Cage announces. He sets about the task with sensitivity and dedication, though the film's narrow focus does make you yearn for somebody to call last orders. Mike Figgis directs more for art than entertainment, relishing Vegas's tacky splendour. Elisabeth Shue shows her mettle as the hooker who gives Cage support and love.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470); **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

LOVE LIFE: Kurt Weill's "lost" Broadway musical is given its European premiere by ever-enterprising Opera North. It's a "concept" show years ahead of its time (1948) about marriage, but marriage seen through 150 years of American history, from the post-revolution apple-pie optimism of 1791 through industrial revolution and depression to the present day. A vaudeville team comments acidly from the sidelines on the disintegration of Susan's and Sam's all-American dream, divorce and — depending on the production — possible reconciliation. Book and lyrics are by the much-married Alan Jay Lerner, and Weill and Lotte Lenya, divorced and remarried, so it's kind of personal. Margaret Preece and Alan Oke sing the leads, Caroline Gawn directs, and the conductor is Wyn Davies.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971 or 245 9351). Wed 24 (preview), 6pm; Thur 25 (first night), 7.15pm. ♿

LA BOHEME: All the action is in Leeds this week. Phyllida Lloyd has returned to re-direct her outstanding production of Puccini's tear-jerker, set in 1950s Paris, with a new, young cast. The staging is also extremely funny, and full of wittily observed period detail in Anthony Ward's decor. Fresh, ardent singing from Margaret Richardson, Tito Beltran and Karl Daymond, and exceptional conducting by Jean Yves Ossonce. Don't miss it.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971 or 245 9351). Fri 26, 7.15pm. ♿

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

IVES WEEKEND: A first encounter with the music of Charles Ives (1884-1954) can leave the listener reeling with amazement. Other composers — Mahler, for instance, whom Ives revered — talked about "embracing the whole of existence" in their symphonies. Ives actually did, in a literal and often seemingly chaotic way, weaving together vast, impressionistic fabrics of marching-bands, hymns, folksongs and everyday sounds. But the chaos, on closer examination, is superbly organised. Ives, who built up a successful insurance business in his "real life", was not simply an American pioneer. He was a great musical original who anticipated many of the supposed avant-garde developments of the 20th century.

The BBC's Ives weekend (including talks, films and an exhibition as well as the concerts) brings together an impressive array of fine performers, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta, the conductors Andrew Davis and Oliver Knussen and the singers Thomas Hampson and Dawn Upshaw. Highlights should be the performance of the moving Third Symphony (*tonight, 8pm*); and tomorrow's finale (7.30pm) which includes the Fourth Symphony, requiring colossal resources and therefore almost never done.
Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), today, tomorrow. ♿

☐ **BETJEMANIA** Musical review based on the works of John Betjeman. Very gentle humour.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm ♿

■ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **FUNNY MONEY** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs 3pm and Sat, 5pm ♿

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm

◪ **HOBSON'S CHOICE** Frank Thornton in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 (0171-494 5045). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm, final week ♿

◪ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali in Terry Johnson's surreal double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Peter Hall revives his 1992 production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. A star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat 6.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **MACK AND MABEL** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

Simon Butteriss, Caroline Fitzgerald in *Betjemania*

☐ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL** Mime, acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre. Companies from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK, at various venues.
Information (0171 637 5661)

☐ **MACBETH** Paul Higgins in the title role of English Touring Theatre's rather lacklustre production. Stephen Unwin directs.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, contact box office for mat schedule ♿

◪ **PRIVATES ON PARADE** Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

■ **ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD** Simon Russell Beale and Adrian Scarborough play the attendant lords in Stoppard's first play, still entertaining after 30 years.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mats today and Wed, 2.15pm ♿

☐ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB** English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an east London bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-839 4488). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun 7pm, mats Sat, 4pm and Sun, 3pm

■ **SALTIMBANCO** Admired by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil boasts 45 performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no animals.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Extended to Jan 29, contact box office for schedule

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

◪ **THE SIMPLETON OF THE UNEXPECTED ISLES** Sam Walters' lucid production of Shaw's fantasy, written in 1935 and incredibly arguing in favour of selective human extermination. With Kate O'Mara and Road Raw.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **SLAUGHTER CITY** New play — violent, surreal and set in a slaughterhouse — by Naomi Wallace, excellent American poet and playwright, whose *One Flea Spare* played at the Bush last autumn. Ron Daniels directs.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm, opens Jan 25, 7pm ♿

■ **SOUTH PACIFIC** Patti Boulaye plays Bloody Mary and Peter Polycarpou Emile in Phil Willmott's strong and winning production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein tropical evergreen.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tonight, 7.30pm. Final week

◪ **THE TOWER** Alexandre Dumas, high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm ♿

◪ **TRAINSPOTTING** Irvine Welsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 5pm

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat 2.30pm ♿

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers**, Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ■ **Buddy**, Strand (0171-930 8800) ☐ **Dead Guilty**, Apollo (0171-494 5070) ■ **Grease**, Dominion (0171-416 6060) ■ **Les Miserables**, Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Miss Saigon**, Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ■ **Oliver!**, Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **Sunset Boulevard**, Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**, Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15) Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama, director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

FAIR GAME (15) Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) See Critics' Choice above

MUTE WITNESS (18) Mute girl witnesses a film studio murder. Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, with Marina Sudina. Director Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

PERSUASION (U) Jane Austen's novel about love lost and found, sensitively adapted by the BBC. With Amanda Root. Director, Roger Michell.
Barbican ♿ (0171 638 8891)

THE UNDERNEATH (15) The classic 40s thriller *Criss Cross* remade as a stylish puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Plaza** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS** (PG) Overbearing vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, down among African tribes. Director, Steve Oedekerk.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15). What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18) Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15) Irish-Americans agonise over love, commitment and beer. Modest feature debut by writer-director-actor Edward Burns.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15) See Critics' Choice above

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but Gerard Corbiau's film only scratches the material's potential.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Riverside Studios** (0181-741 2255), today only

◆ **FOUR ROOMS** (18) Unfunny goings on at a hotel on New Year's eve. Disastrous compendium made by four chic directors: Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez, Alexandre Rockwell and Allison Anders.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Kensington** Sat only: (01426 914666) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

HEAVY (15) Slow, absorbing American independent film about frustrated lives from writer-director James Mangold. With Shelley Winters, Pruitt Taylor Vince, Liv Tyler, Deborah Harry.
Renoir (0171-837 8402)

Denzel Washington tracks the *Devil in a Blue Dress*

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG). A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, with Hal Scardino, Litefoot. Frank Oz directs.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15). Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Over-manic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

MURDER IN THE FIRST (15) Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN** (18) Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director David Fincher.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18) Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything. Hollow tale of hollow people, brazenly presented by director Paul Verhoeven.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15) Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. Talky tale with small pleasures. Lasse Hallström directs Dennis Quaid, Kyra Sedgwick.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Norman Travers (centre), who asked Dr Kiley-Worthington to train his elephants

After years of research, Dr Kiley-Worthington has a way with animals — even an obstinate one-and-half tonne young elephant

Continued from page 1

truth lies in these people's desire to reach out to others through their animal friends, to show off by proxy.

It seems a sort of unwritten rule of biography that "remarkable" people are never "nice". Rather, they are irascible, socially inept, arrogant, driven, blind to their own faults, fanatically evangelical in spreading their particular creeds. Thinkers ahead of their time also seem to have "difficult" relationships with their families and colleagues, and to spend a good deal of their lives howling their philosophies in the wilderness. That about sums up my mum.

In 1971 she horrified the inhabitants of the Sussex stockbroker belt, and the agricultural establishment, by starting an organic farm. For a decade we put up with "muck and magic" jokes, police raids on suspicion of pot-peddling, and ostracism at school. Now it's rare to find any lecturer in agriculture who would confess to ever having been cynical about the merits of eco-friendly agriculture, and Sussex housewives have turned green.

Her pioneering work on the behavioural abnormalities in pigs and veal calves prompted animal rights campaigners to boycott factory farms. As she is a meat eater and user of animals, the campaigners can't stand her, while she accuses them of wanting to set up a form of "animal apartheid" and "animalstans".

Her work on animal thinking and research into their emotional lives has caused her to be labelled a sentimental crank by some of her colleagues. In the past five years she has rolled eco-agriculture and her work with animal behaviour into one package, and lives according to her principles in a "multi-species dwelling" (a barn in Devon) which she shares with Arab horses, llamas, sheep, cattle, chickens, dogs — and the few humans who can tolerate a thunderbox for a lavatory, and back issues of the *Yellow Pages* for paper.

While studying for a second doctorate, this time in applied philosophy and animal ethics, her main obsession these days is to explore inter-species relationships; in particular, those between humans and other animals. In the blurring of the borders between "wild" animals and humans may lie their salvation.

Toto, and the five other tame elephants at the Imire Ranch are part of a exclusive club of fewer than 50 elephants in Africa that can be ridden by man. The most famous group is owned by an American, Randall Moore, who has run the hugely successful Elephant Back Safaris in Botswana's Okavango Swamp since 1990. The longest running "family" of backed nellies, descendants of King Leopold I's elephant cavalry, lives in jungle isolation in Zaire's Garamba National Park.

Whereas Mr Moore likes to keep his skills to himself, for understandable commercial reasons, and Zaire's mahouts are idle because of that country's domestic chaos, Mr Travers at Imire Ranch is anxious to spread the idea that Africa's elephants can be of more use to man than as a target for the tourist's camera or hunter's gun.

"In Africa, the areas where elephants can live are getting smaller and smaller. But man has used animals for thousands of years, and I see no reason why the elephant should not be seen as useful, rather than as a pest for those living alongside them," says Mr Travers, whose love of elephants comes from years spent hunting them in the Zambesi valley.

> ‘She lives in a barn with llamas, horses, cows and sheep’

Toto, Nyasha, Chaka, Zulu, Makavushi, and Lundi (the only female) were all orphaned when their parents were gunned down in culls between eight and 15 years ago. Hand-reared by Mr Travers and his wife, Jill, they were ridden by children while they were youngsters but, as Mr Travers says: "When they became big and stroppy, we had to give it up."

Later, with the help of a friend who trained polo ponies, Mr Travers found that the already tame elephants were amazingly easy to ride.

"It took us only a couple of days to get on their backs. It is ridiculous that we don't utilise them more. If they can have a happy and productive life they can be useful to the tourist industry, African farmers, and even anti-poaching units. After all, they are immensely powerful, you can see much further from their backs, they are silent, and they don't get punctures," he says.

He hired my mother to come to his magnificent ranch, where tourists can ride the elephants, to teach his team of Shona mahouts how to train their elephants to go on to greater things. Many Africans like to see wild animals at a very safe distance — or on the spit.

Chum Gosho, the chief mahout, chuckled as we rode Nyasha through the bush on a patrol which was guarding Mr Travers's seven black rhino orphans from poachers. "All our friends think we use magic to ride the elephant," he says.

The impression that one needs special powers to deal with the vast nellies affected more than the local tribesmen. "My God," said Judy Travers, Norman's daughter-in-law, after watching the doctor in a training session. "She's just like Dr Dolittle." The hero of the children's books, which my mother grew up on, is certainly her inspiration. She would like to be able to talk with animals. Why else spend a lifetime studying how they communicate?

However, she is no horse whisperer, or South American *shaman* who mutters *secretos* in the ears of magical, realist beasts. The reality lies in the scientific applications of body language, observation of an animal's attention span (most bore easily) and the constant use of one's voice to signal approval and disapproval — backed up with rewards of horse nuts for getting things right.

The process is painfully slow but produces a bond between man and beast which is hard to break. After a week of training with the doctor, Imire's human residents gathered for a demonstration of what the animals had learnt.

The first week or so is the most important in training an animal such as an elephant. The main breakthrough is to ensure that the elephants, which are highly intelligent and quick to pick up new skills, grow to appreciate the emotional rewards of pleasing their handlers before they grow into four-tonne, randy leviathans.

Then it dawned on me, the demonstration is the trainer's payoff. As the large Travers family cooed and clapped at the performances of the elephants, who lifted their feet, swung their legs, picked up old car tyres, and allowed their handlers to swing on their tusks on command, my mother shivered with pleasure. Through animals she can get the approval she craves from the one species to which she cannot relate — her own.

Lesson learnt: five young elephants, now mounted by mahouts, succumb to the doctor's no-nonsense training methods

Picture on page 1
showing Dr Marthe Kiley-Worthington training the
young elephants on
Norman Travers's Imire
Ranch in Zimbabwe, and
the three pictures
on this page,
by SAM KILEY

Despite the distractions, **Ruth Gledhill** listens to a sermon at St Martin-in-the Fields, a refuge for the homeless

At work, a lesson in Christian grace

AS SHE announced the collection, the woman priest glanced in our direction, her look spelling not exactly fear, but more a hesitant trepidation. The response was immediate, but perhaps not as bad as she had expected. "Give me a hundred pound then," said a man lying face up and shoeless on the pew beside me with what can only be described as a loud mutter. We were at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, a refuge for the homeless and the alcoholic, where the oppressive rows of blackened pews have become day-beds for those without night ones to sleep on.

The Rev Clare Herbert, St Martin's part-time curate, was one of 30 preachers shortlisted for last year's Preacher of the Year award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*.

For many, such as Clare, preaching has become a strategic exercise in risk management. Hecklers and drunks are as regular as the services at St Martin's. Preachers there must be filled with humility if they are not to be totally humiliated. The thousands of preachers like her, struggling against apathy, indifference and boredom, week after week and often with little reward, are those who are most deserving of the highest praise. They are among the preachers *The Times* is trying to find and encourage in its annual award, launched today for its second year.

Feeling cowed by the emptiness of the building around us, we were at the monthly "World at Work" service, which for some reason is held on a Sunday evening, a time when most of the people who work around Trafalgar Square are sensibly at home. Our coughing and paper rustling was quietened by a "shhhhhh" from the back as Clare took her chair on the chancel steps. "The aim of this service is to continue to struggle to make some connection between the life of work and the life of the spirit," she said.

We thanked God for the places where we worked, for our responsibilities and for the chance to care for those we worked with. The elderly man who had quietened us could now be heard making his way from the back of the church. He came to an unsteady rest in our pew as a petite, elderly woman in a camel coat began that week's lesson from St Paul. We could just make her out behind the lectern, struggling with the small print in the *Alternative Service Book*: "He was generous with his mercy ... it is through grace that we have been saved."

We sang a hymn, and our new neighbour stared disconcertingly at me, muttering. I resolved to sing more quietly but Clare, undaunted by the competition, launched gamely into her sermon, wisely speaking from the lectern, not from the pulpit, a black edifice hanging directly over our pew in traditional admonitory style.

As she began, our neighbour threw his green, woolly hat at me. "One of the most difficult things about calling ourselves Christians is knowing what it means," she said. Various crashing noises erupted from our pew as our new friend searched for his lost gold earring beneath the wooden kneeler. "For me, being a Christian hinges around this word, grace." Our friend took his shoes off, extended himself lengthwise on the pew and made snuffling noises.

Speaking calmly, clearly and fairly fast, with the occasional watchful glance in our direction, Clare described Christ's "disgraceful death as a blasphemer, deemed to be unreachable and outside all hope of repentance". Our neighbour interrupted with an "Oh, shut up".

She spoke of St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus and what the discovery of such grace might mean for all of us today. "It will mean dropping some of our heavy rules and regulations about what it means to be a good, successful, beautiful, happy, fulfilled person," she said. "Even more frightening still, it will probably mean dropping some of our religious rules about how and where we pray and how often we come to church. It is scary to let our assumptions drop as we find out what God wants us to look at next within ourselves."

She ended by describing a ramshackle garage near her home. It was a place where grease, dust and rubbish prevailed. But many people came daily to sit and talk with the mechanic. "The place may be grimy but it is graceful," she said, as our neighbour began to snore. Grace overturns old assumptions, she continued, "setting us free to see God where not-God is expected, to take delight in places where the glory of God is to be revealed among the muck and grime of our lives."

We confessed to God that "the gifts you have given us are spoilt by our selfishness and lack of regard for your sovereign will," that we were sinful people and were sorry for our failures. There was a symbolic sharing of salt, when we went to the altar and took salt in our hands as if it were bread. I resisted the temptation to throw it over my shoulder.

We ended with a prayer for strength in our work and left for home with a sad goodbye to our lonely friend, who by some indefinable grace had done so much to cheer us.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JJ. Tel: 0171-930 0089.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A one to five star guide to the service* ★

VICAR: The Rev Nicholas Holtam.

ARCHITECTURE: James Gibbs's famous 18th-century church with its Corinthian columns seems to adapt to its congregation. *Impressive and stately when full, it is dour and depressing* when almost empty, as it was for our service. ★★★

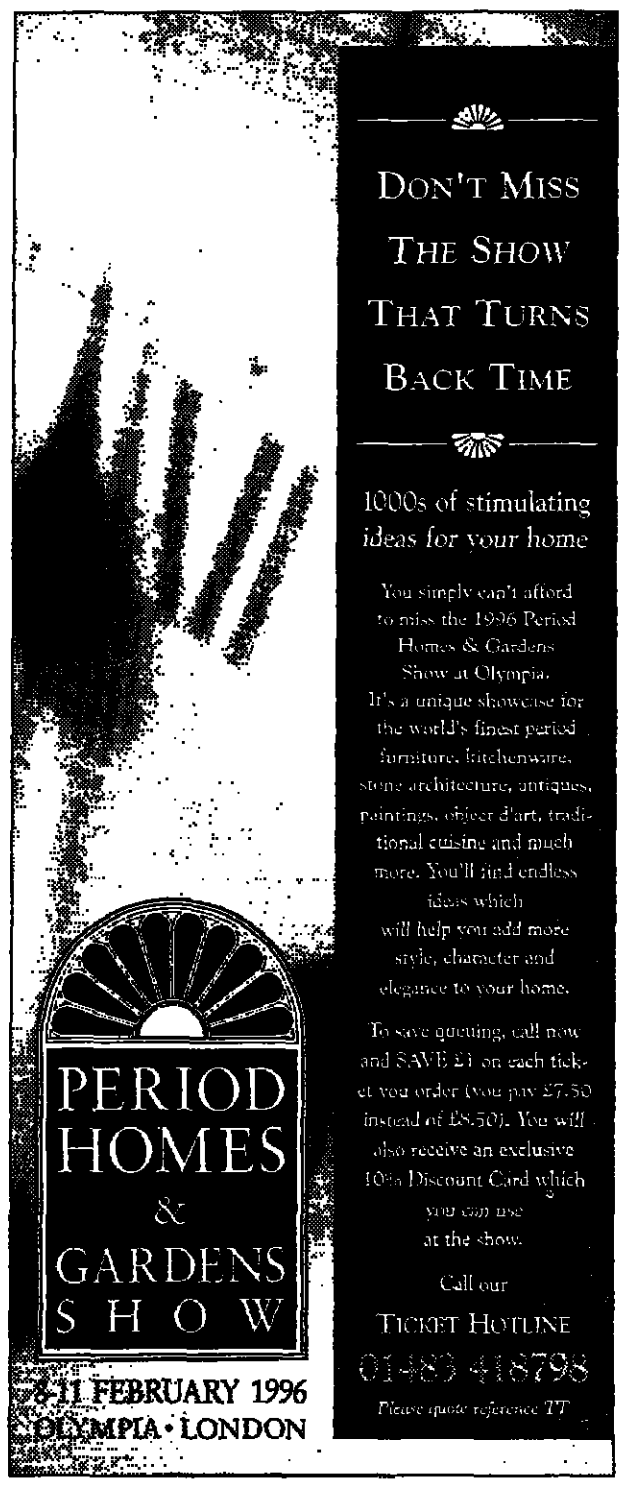
SERMON: By declining any temptation to enter into battle with her adversary, the preacher came out the victor. ★★★★

MUSIC: The organist thundered out the tunes to hymns, breathing new life into our small, choirless congregation where the loudest voices were also those most out of tune. ★★

LITURGY: An attempt to reconnect the world of work with God. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Against all the odds, this service was strangely exhilarating. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and biscuits served to all in the north porch. ★★★★



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FAMILY HOLIDAYS: **Mary Ann Sieghart** finds the recipe for domestic bliss in a French farmhouse …

Be thankful for your Lot

MARY ANN SIEGHART

Daughter Evie was entranced by exhibits at the dinosaur park near Monflanquin

I often sigh for the BC era. Then we were adventurers and explorers. We climbed the Inca Trail high up in the Peruvian Andes. We sailed around the Galapagos Islands. We trekked in the Himalayas and the Tatras and discovered the remotest parts of eastern Turkey. Before Children, anything was possible.

Still my husband and I fantasise. My favourite virtual holiday involves following the Silk Route from northern Pakistan to Kashgar in Chinese Turkestan. He wants to go to the more obscure islands in the Indonesian archipelago. Both of us are desperate to get to Vietnam before it becomes another Thailand. But fantasies they remain.

It is true: children change everything. They turn intrepid travellers, trekkers and backpackers into villa-renting, bucket-and-spading, estate-car parents. It is not just that you would be mad to take a four-year-old and a two-year-old in the back of a lorry thundering along the Karakoram Highway. Even if we were mean enough to take three weeks away from the children to do it on our own, we would no longer have the energy for such jaunts. The combination of two full-time jobs and a young family makes relaxing holidays a necessity.

Now that nannies no longer work weekends, working parents of small children often find themselves more exhausted on a Sunday evening than they felt on Friday night. Holidays are, therefore, the only opportunity to recharge rundown batteries. But they have to be carefully planned.

Cool retreat: stone farmhouses set among rolling hills are the perfect hideaway

So what are the key ingredients? My checklist runs as follows: a large house with solid internal walls, help with the children, a sandy beach or swimming pool within easy walking distance, good food and weather, and another family with amusing parents and children of roughly the same age. In the old days, architecture, landscape and culture would have been top of my list of priorities: now they are a bonus.

This year, we spent consecutive weeks in two houses in France. The first, rented by some friends, was a rambling Victorian edge-of-town mansion in a charming resort on the Britanny coast. We took communal holidaying to the extreme: six parents, eight children under the age of seven (including two babies), three nannies and a cook. Of its type, it was bliss.

We went shrimping with the children every morning when the tide was low, took them to the beach after lunch, and handed them over to the nannies for tea so that we could play tennis, ride, or collapse into bed. We ate hugely and well but barely ventured beyond the immediate environs.

Then we drove down to the Lot with one of the two families. It was a pretty dreadful day-long journey, not to be recommended in a car without air-conditioning (ours does not). As soon as we arrived, we determined to put the car on a train for the return — which, as it involves the much cheaper and shorter Dover/Calais crossing, turns out not much more expensive and far less time-consuming than driving back to St Malo and taking the overnight ferry. It also avoids the cost of petrol and motorway tolls. The *auto-train* does demand hours of hanging around at each end but, once aboard, you simply go to sleep and wake up at Calais. On the fractiousness scale, it leaves parents far less frazzled than driving.

The Lot is a gorgeous place to holiday. Just south of the Dordogne and much less touristy, you are unlikely to bump into a braying British acquaintance in the local market square. Ensconced in a cool stone farmhouse with a pretty garden and swimming pool, in what felt like a private valley, we had to wrench ourselves away for shopping and sightseeing.

Rolling hills, woods and valleys give the Lot an intimacy and verdancy that easily match the Dordogne. There is plenty to see and do if you want to explore. One afternoon we visited Monflanquin, a delicious old hilltop village, and another day we took the children to a nearby model dinosaur park and stalactite cave.

But our local medieval hilltop village was as perfect as any visitor could wish for. Vieux Pujols consists of two long streets of chocolate-box prettiness, with an ancient market square, complete with café and church. From La Toque Blanche, the Michelin-starred restaurant on the opposite hill, you can watch the sunset turn the buildings' stone to a blushing gold (as well as eating the sort of food for which you would pay a small fortune in Britain).

In this house we cooked for ourselves: but it is no great strain to dribble olive oil and sprinkle fresh herbs over chicken, lamb, peppers, courgettes and aubergines on the barbecue. My first prerequisite — thick walls — was sadly lacking, so we adults managed to sleep only as late as the earliest-waking baby or child each morning. But, as a formula for an enjoyable holiday with small children, taking a house easily beats staying in hotels. The secret is not to be over-ambitious: remain in one place for as long as possible, and restrict sightseeing to the occasional day. Otherwise you return home as tired as you were when you set out.

And as for Vietnam, well, we live in hope. One day the children will grow up. And who knows? We might even take them with us.

Getting there

☐ **The author travelled independently with Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth to St Malo (£229 each way for three adults, two children, a car and a four-berth cabin). Reservations and information: 0990 360360.**

☐ **In Villa Pujols, she was partly financed by Crystal France (0181-390 3335). It costs £1,495 a week (sleeping ten) in August, with a second week from £1,235.**

☐ **Motorail (0171-203 7000) from Brive, in the Dordogne, to Calais costs £120 per car and driver plus £40 per extra adult and £25 per child. A four-berth cabin is £60. The Dover-Calais crossing costs about £100 for a car and family.**

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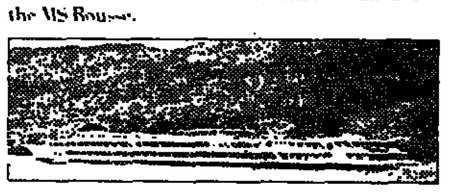

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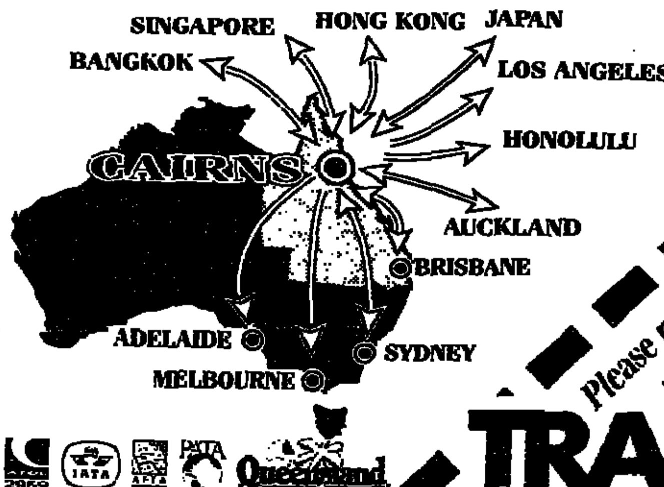

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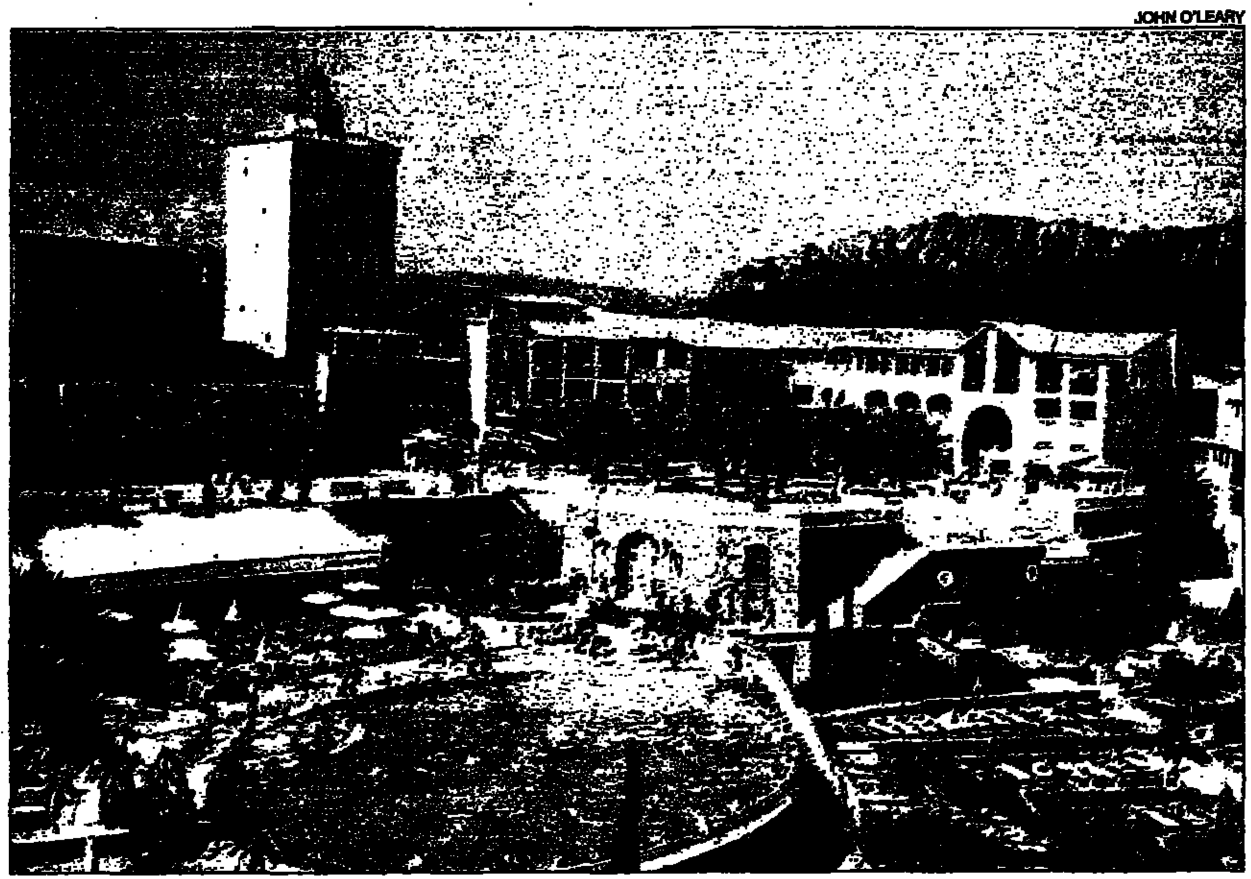
... while for **John O'Leary** there is endless entertainment at a holiday complex in France

A smarter way to live it up on the Riviera

Lazy days: a mini-train takes guests to the beach



JOHN O'LEARY

Playtime: Cap Esterel has eight restaurants, bars and shops and offers lots of activities to keep children amused

For countless families each year, a summer holiday on the Continent comes down to a choice between luxury camping, a villa or an apartment. It was only a matter of time before someone tried to carve out a new market by marrying the best features of each.

That is precisely what Eurocamp, the biggest of the fixed-site operators, has tried to do with its Eurovillages venture, which is about to start its second season.

Campers are wooed with the promise of a bit more comfort, and the villa types get the sort of facilities that will keep the children (and adults) occupied for days. A sort of Center Parcs in the sun.

Indeed, French Center Parcs in Normandy and the000132 Valley are among the 31 locations in the Eurovillages' programme for 1996. The company has bought into holiday villages and apartment *complexes, mainly in France,* just as it has always done on the best campsites. This gives customers access to already successful complexes around the Mediterranean and in other popular holiday des*tinations.*

Studios and apartments come in all shapes and sizes, in relatively peaceful clusters of 40, or bustling, self-contained villages of more than 1,000 units. All have pools and offer at least one major sporting facility, such as a golf course.

The flagship village of Cap Esterel, sprawling across a hillside on a particularly attractive stretch of the Côte d'Azur, has them all. This enormous, but beautifully designed *development* on the Bay of Agay between St Raphael and Cannes is about as far from the old idea of a holiday camp as you can get. Every conceivable sport is available, from archery to volleyball, and there is even a mini-train to take the effort out of a trip to the beach or supermarket.

A nine-hole golf course snakes its way around the 1,400 apartments, its heavy watering creating a steamy microclimate in summer. The 20 tennis courts are in constant use, and everywhere you go you encounter crocodiles of eager youngsters on their way to the climbing wall or the disco, or to learn scuba diving or surfboarding. Like much else at Cap Esterel, activities for children are not cheap, but they are superbly organised.

There lies the rub for British families. The state of the pound means that there is no *such thing* as a cheap holiday in France unless you are planning the equivalent of a monastic retreat — not a realistic proposition with three children in tow. Cap Esterel's eight restaurants, bars, shops *and sporting* facilities are all competitively priced in an expensive area, but that still *means serious* money. The cheapest ice-lolly will set you back more than £1, a round of golf more than £20.

Campers are wooed with more comfort

The development belongs to the popular French chain Pierre et Vacances, which runs *several of the Eurovillages'* sites. Studios and apartments are comfortable and well equipped, with large balconies and optional extras such as television, phone and maid service. Nightly entertainment *on the central* terrace can be loud for young children, but does not go on late.

The development has been meticulously planned. The huge lagoon-style pool, with water slide and every possible gadget, is a magnet for children, leaving a deeper and uncrowded alternative to adults. The two are linked by artificial waterfalls, which appear purely decorative but actually form footbaths to keep grass and dirt from the sunbathing area out of the water. Yet visitors are only as regimented as they want to be. It would be possible to spend a fortnight at Cap Esterel without leaving the site, but that would be to miss the coves of the Côte Sauvage and the unspoilt Esterel national park.

The Esterel, with 100 kilometres of paths but limited access to cars, is a little-known gem of the Riviera. Complete with wild boar, which congregate photogenically at feeding time, the park is a forest with often spectacular views. Further afield, the villages of Provence are within easy reach by car and, for those looking for something more lively, Cannes and Nice are not far away.

Cap Esterel may be the most lavishly equipped of the Eurovillages resorts, but the concept looks like a winner. The numbers were encouraging last summer despite the exchange rate, and the programme has expanded into Italy and Spain this year. The basic price of a holiday in one of the three locations outside France is not noticeably cheaper, but there should be savings in the cost of living.

Eurovillages: fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Eurovillages, PO Box 81, Dalton Way, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 0UA (01606 734400, fax 01606 737193).

☐ Prices, which include Channel crossings for car and up to five passengers, vary considerably according to location and the level of facilities, as well as the time of year. For example, a six-person apartment with sea view at Cap Esterel will cost £1,000 more for a fortnight at the start of August than its equivalent at St Jean-de-Monts, on the coast of the Vendée.

☐ Studios for four to five people at Cap Esterel start at £524 for a fortnight until the end of March, rising to £1,733 at the height of the season. Apartments for the same numbers start at £566 (or £615 with a sea view) and go up to £1,925 in the first two weeks of August, when a sea view costs an extra £84. There is a 10 per cent discount on bookings made before the end of this month.

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FAMILY HOLIDAYS: **Brian MacArthur** on the teen scene in Turkey and **Paul Hoggart** visits Legoland

WORLD PICTURES

Hidden agenda: wise planning means that hotels and apartment blocks are never more than two storeys high at Olu Deniz, so they cannot be seen from the glorious beach

Spreading their wings

Say Turkey and the image conjured up will almost certainly be of the sweeping curve of the beach at Olu Deniz with its lagoon at one end and majestic mountains behind.

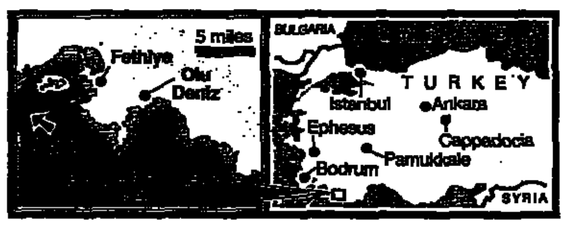
It was here last summer that I tried an experiment. At 16, teenagers are on the cusp: they don't really want to go on holiday with their parents but they are not yet quite ready to go off on their own. After the ordeal of GCSEs, they certainly don't want an earnest cultural holiday. At the top of the agenda is a sunny beach by day and a throbbing disco by night.

Olu Deniz, an hour-and-a-half from Dalaman airport after a four-hour flight, is a summer tourist resort on the Lycian coast which offers decent hotels, a superb beach, and a sense of adventure by night without any of the accompanying sense of menace that reputedly hangs over centres such as Bodrum. It is also conveniently situated for excursions to some of the great sights of Turkey at Ephesus, Pamukkale and Cappadocia, or (for £105) an overnight visit to Istanbul.

We went half-board on a Thomson package to the Olu Deniz Resort Hotel, situated at the easternmost end of the beach, away from the most crowded areas and set in small blocks, where we had spacious rooms with balconies overlooking lush gardens bursting with fruit and flowers. The beach was a two-minute walk away, although several tourists (British) preferred to spend their days by the hotel pool.

Once booked in, cash was banished. Guests buy books of vouchers which are used to pay for drinks and meals that are not included in the package. At breakfast and dinner, the tables groaned with mountainous selections of hors d'oeuvres, chicken, lamb, fish, vegetables and fruit.

Turkey fact file: where to stay



☐ The author was a guest of Thomson Discover Turkey.

☐ A seven-night stay at the Olu Deniz Resort Hotel costs from £299, including flights, room and breakfast, and a week half board from £315. There are departures from 12 British airports.

☐ Brochures are available from travel agents or by calling the Thomson Holiday Shop (0171-707 9000).

My daughter and her friend slept until nearly 10am, before setting off for a day on the beach, swimming, sunbathing and reading, interrupted when the heat became intolerable by a cheap snack at one of the restaurants behind the beach.

Once dinner was over, by nine, the night was young. Music, Western and Turkish, wafted on the warm night air, along with the sweet-smelling smoke from the barbecues. This was when the girls set off into the night, an anxious parent left behind with the thought that girls cannot always be protected if they are to grow up and learn to cope on their own — but it was difficult. They survived. I survived, though not without a few worrying moments when they had not returned to the hotel by midnight. But they were enjoying themselves hugely, meeting boys of all nationalities in the discos, afterwards sitting on the beach playing guitars.

Olu Deniz would not be to everybody's taste. It is now a mass tourist resort, although in early July it was not unbearably overcrowded. Geography and wise planning also give it one big advantage. Behind the beach the land falls back, so from the sea and the beach, the hotels, all only one or two-storeys high, cannot be seen and you feel that you are swimming directly under the mountains.

Yet in the dip behind the beach there has grown a busy, bustling, makeshift "high street", a promenade of restaurants, cafés, bazaars, bars and discos. At night, the resort throbs with life and music. It is lively without being yobbish, crowded or brutishly noisy.

It was not a holiday I would have chosen myself but it was enthusiastically voted a success by the two girls.

Mini village is a model of ingenuity

Americans like saccharine fantasy. The British enjoy old-world funfair vulgarity. The descendants of the mighty Viking Sven Forkbeard, however, have a 25-acre theme park devoted to tiny, noduled bricks.

The Danish inventor, Ole Kirk Christiansen, is a most unjust omission from the Nobel Peace Prize roll. Lego is capable of tranquillising a hyperactive monster in seconds.

Ole bought his first plastic-moulding machine in 1947, and his tricksy little cuboids appeared soon afterwards. By the early Sixties the factory in Billund, Denmark, had so many visitors that his son Godtfred decided to create an outdoor exhibition of models. Legoland opened in 1968, and Lilleby, the original model village, still lurks in the middle, a bonsai version of the world outside.

Today the park offers rides and activities, primarily for young children, but these are peripheral to what must be the world's largest and most intricate model village. I knew my children (aged three, six and nine) would love it, but expected to find it a trifle naff myself. I was won over.

The heart of the park is Miniland, a vast area of reconstructed landmarks and landscapes, mainly from Teutonic Europe. There are palaces and castles, harbours, waterways and mountain villages, all meticulously copied from life.

I found the Norwegian Lofoten island fishing village particularly charming. "Medbourne", an English town modelled on buildings in Chester, York and Stamford, is drab in comparison.

The most exotic exhibits are grouped around the mini-boat ride. A Lego Capitol sits beside a 30ft Statue of Liberty. The Acropolis and the Golden Temple of Bangkok squat amid the mini vegetation.

Beyond Miniland lies a primary-coloured toytown. Everything not actually built of Lego or Duplo (the chunky junior version) is made to resemble them. Here a Lego chef stands outside a café; there a Lego Indian skulks on a frontier sidewalk. The "theming" is ferociously detailed. One café serves Lego-shaped chips.

The park has a fine selection of "pink-knuckle" rides, exciting enough to thrill the under-tens. The best are the timber ride, a log-effect roller-coaster, the Mine Train and Lego Canoe, which winds past life-size American wilderness animals before plunging down a water-splash. Toy animals abound, particularly on Lego Safari, a jeep ride through an African game reserve.

In Legoredo, the western frontier town, visitors can pan for gold or join the Indian tribe of Chief Playing Eagle. There's even a campfire where, for a small fee, you can bake twists of fresh bread skewered on twigs.

For the very young, Duploland offers helicopter, train and plane rides, and if it rains there's an indoor area with thousands of bricks lying around to play with.

To get an overview, start with the train ride round the park, or ascend Legotop, the 40-metre, revolving viewing platform. You can just about cover the park in one day but two-day passes are good value.

The Legoland Hotel is in the park, but there are many interesting places to visit in the area. We stayed in the Munkebjerg Hotel in Vejle, half an hour down the road, set in a wooded park full of sculptures and overlooking a fjord. The Hans Christian Andersen museum at Odense is within easy reach.

The new Legoland at Windsor is due to open this year. I wonder how well the phlegmatic Danish charm will survive the transition.

● *The author and his family were guests of Maersk Air, Terminal House, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AU (0171-333 0066) and the Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SY (0171-259 5958).*

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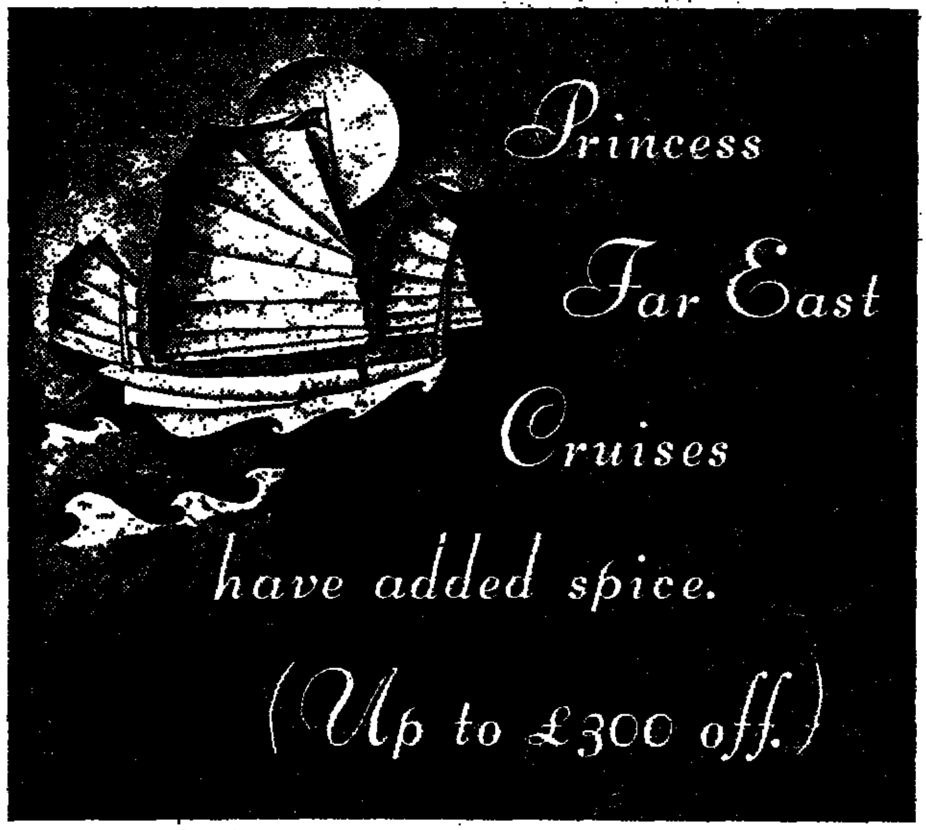

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We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploration of the city has to be on foot, navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful. Palmyra is a very special place - the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Baal.
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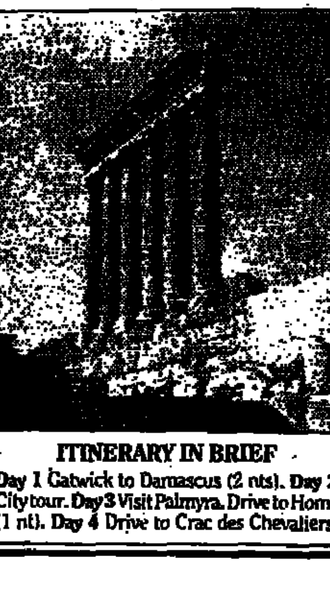

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أسوأ من الأصل

ITALY: 'Agriturismo' is the magic word opening up the rural delights of Tuscany and Umbria

Heaven for the accidental tourist

The best thing about holidays is the unexpected; and the best news from Italy is that you can build a whole holiday around the serendipitous pursuit of happy accidents. Agriturismo means you can wander around, enjoying a different Tuscan or Umbrian farmhouse every night if you want to, without booking and, although nothing that's good is cheap in Italy, at a bargain price.

For those who first fell in love with Italy as backpackers, and then came back for the summer fortnight's lease of a converted barn, there's now the chance to reconcile the youthful adventure of travelling with the more middle-aged demands of comfortable, charming and hospitable lodgings.

Leave the main road for the minor ones, and branch off on to those roads that the indispensable maps of the Automobile Club d'Italia mark in white, and start looking out for the bright yellow signposts which blossom at the occasional rustic crossroads. Most will be trumpeting the attractions of a ceramics shop, a farm selling oil and wine, a restaurant, a two-star hotel; but sometimes there's a sign with the magic word "Agriturismo".

This sign won't give you any clues about what to expect; you may be spending the night in a converted dovecote, furnished to top Italian-design specifications, or settling down in a simple, whitewashed room. Your host may direct you to the village trattoria, or offer you a five-course dinner under the stars, with lasagne baked in a medieval oven, and the roasted results of a day's hunting. You have tasted the olive oil which the farmer sells at his gate, you will now taste the olive oil the farmer keeps for himself.

Those who love Italy as I do know where to go, but as time passes we tend to go to fewer places, and to almost no new ones. We reconcile ourselves to the fact that we will probably never, after all, get round to seeing the place we really wanted to — in my case Gubbio.

The pleasure of an unplanned itinerary is in not knowing what tomorrow may bring. Those who get twitchy without an itinerary and a set of bookings should not embark on the agrituristic trail.

The state tourist board supplies a list of about 3,500 farmhouses, which offer accommodation at all levels, and feature activities such as riding and fishing. These are primarily intended to be booked by the week, but many will have a room for the night. A double room will cost L40,000-L75,000 (about £17-£32), but the prices bear no relation to the relative comfort and amenity. The best place my family found happened to be the cheapest.

There always is a room, somewhere. During the crowded school summer holiday in Chiantishire, for instance, we knocked on the door of the Podere San Quirico, a 14th-century farmhouse on a hill surrounded by vineyards, and found two of its four double bedrooms free. Each was furnished in old Tuscan style, with great chestnut wardrobes and wrought iron bedsteads. Chickens clucked in the garden, where a hayloft had been converted to provide separate, self-contained accommodation for up to five guests. There was a large communal kitchen, which no one seemed to use except to store mineral water in a capacious fridge. A riding school is nearby.

San Quirico is a town on the Chianti wine road, where many of the old estates have been converted into residential villages — expensive, soulless and artificial townships which should not be confused with the true spirit of agriturismo. Some will enjoy the cloying luxury, but these Stepford villages, where the original inhabitants have all eerily turned into waiters, have a deadness about them.

We were on a fly-drive holiday, and for summertime touring it is important to have an air-conditioned car. Our tiny, purple Renault Twingo looked like a surprised frog, but its ferocious blasts of cool air meant that we could do our travelling whenever we wanted, even during the heat of the day when the only alternative was a siesta.

We did miss the swimming pool of the farmhouse where we have spent countless summer fortnights, but open-air village pools are available in an emergency, and provide an opportunity to observe Italian youth in full strut.

There were some duds along the way: a farmhouse near Ravenna run by an Italian Basil Fawlty was a touch too rustic, and some farmhouses are modern, with large, dark, characterless rooms. But if that's the case, you move on — and discover, for instance, the Fattoria del Cerretino near Umbertide in the Tiber valley. Set on a hill surrounded by fields of tobacco, sunflowers, vines and olives, a complex of three farmhouses has been sensitively converted. There's a choice of simple double-rooms with bath, or self-catering apartments in the old granary or tobacco-drying tower.

Rinaldo Gianelli, the owner, has plans for a pool and a tennis court this summer, and he'll lend you mountain bikes to explore the estate, or to go to the local lake to fish. If you do nothing else, eat Signora Gianelli's home-made pasta and his treasured local truffles as the the night sky turns to blue velvet.

The fattoria is on the spectacular mountain road to Cortona, and the nearby autostrade put Perugia and Assisi well within reach.

The best venue, unexpected as ever, came on the last night. Strategically poised for Pisa airport, we looked for somewhere to lay our heads around Lucca (twinned, intriguingly, with Abingdon, Berkshire). Spotting the local tourist office, I lost a 10,000 lire bet with my sons that, on a Sunday afternoon, it would not be open — after all, would the Abingdon office be open in similar circumstances? Lucca's was, and a helpful assistant phoned the Piccola Residenza di Villa l'Ulivo in the hills to the north. The old farmhouse has a beautifully converted barn, which can accommodate three, or, in perfect romance, two. It has been simply and exquisitely refurbished by its owner, Luca Calabrese, whose father's bass voice will be remembered by older visitors to Glyndbourne. The Piccola Residenza has a garden with views over the countryside; an idyllic place to read, sleep, and have breakfast.

We had hardly come to terms with our good fortune when we were offered a tray of red and white wine, bread, salt and a small carafe of his olive oil. We discussed agriturismo, and he was sensitive to the dilemma of turning a traditional rural industry into a seasonal, rustic theme park; but planning laws are strict.

Our barn had a tiny kitchen so well-appointed that we were almost tempted to cook; fortunately, our host directed us to nearby Mecenate and an excellent restaurant.

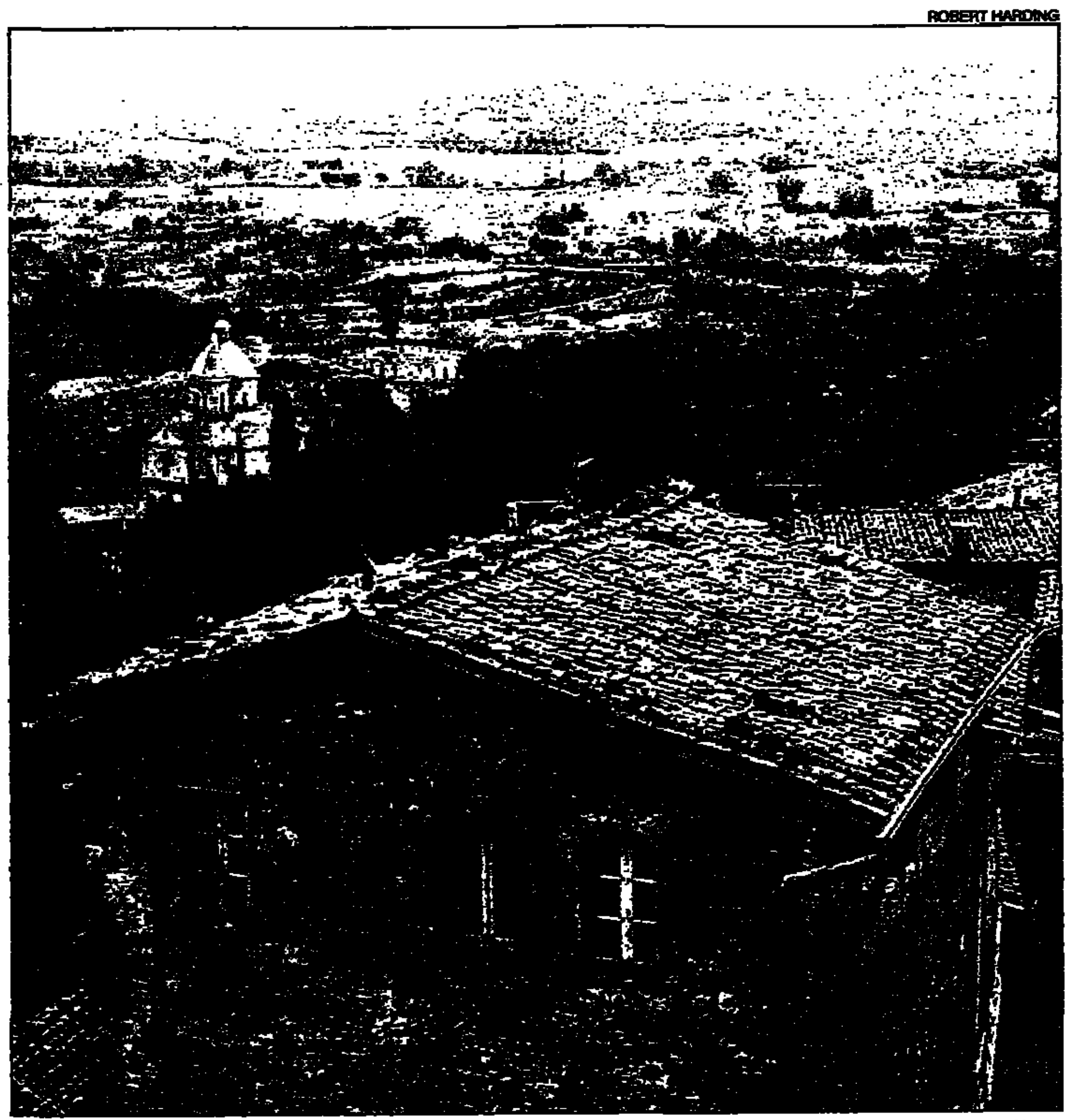
There are whole areas where agriturismo, this hybrid of hospitality and set-aside, does not seem to have caught on; the area round Ferrara seemed particularly barren, which is a shame given the under-appreciated splendour of the city — Bologna on a more human scale. In that case, a one or two-star hotel is insurance against a night spent sleeping in the car. Some regions are better than others at co-ordinating and codifying the establishments in their area, but long may an element of disorganisation last, so that the visitor can continue to trust to luck, and find the accidental felicity the true traveller delights in.

At last, I went to Gubbio.

DAVID JESSEL

- *The author booked his holiday through Portman Travel, 618 Kingston Road, Raynes Park, London SW20 8DN (0181-543 4433).*
- *A scheduled flight by Alitalia to Pisa costs £199 return, plus £10 airport tax. The hire of an air-conditioned Renault Twingo for 14 days costs £530.*
- *A list of properties is available from Agriturist, Crorso Vittorio Emmanuele 101, 00186 Roma, Italy.*

ROBERT HARDING



The Tuscan countryside and its farmhouse stopovers are attracting the more adventurous travellers

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Citalia (0181-686 5533) is offering four-night breaks in Rome, staying at the five-star Hotel Eden for £538 per person. Alternatively, a two-night stay at the three-star San Remo in Rome costs £289 per person. Prices include B&B accommodation, return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick and transfers.

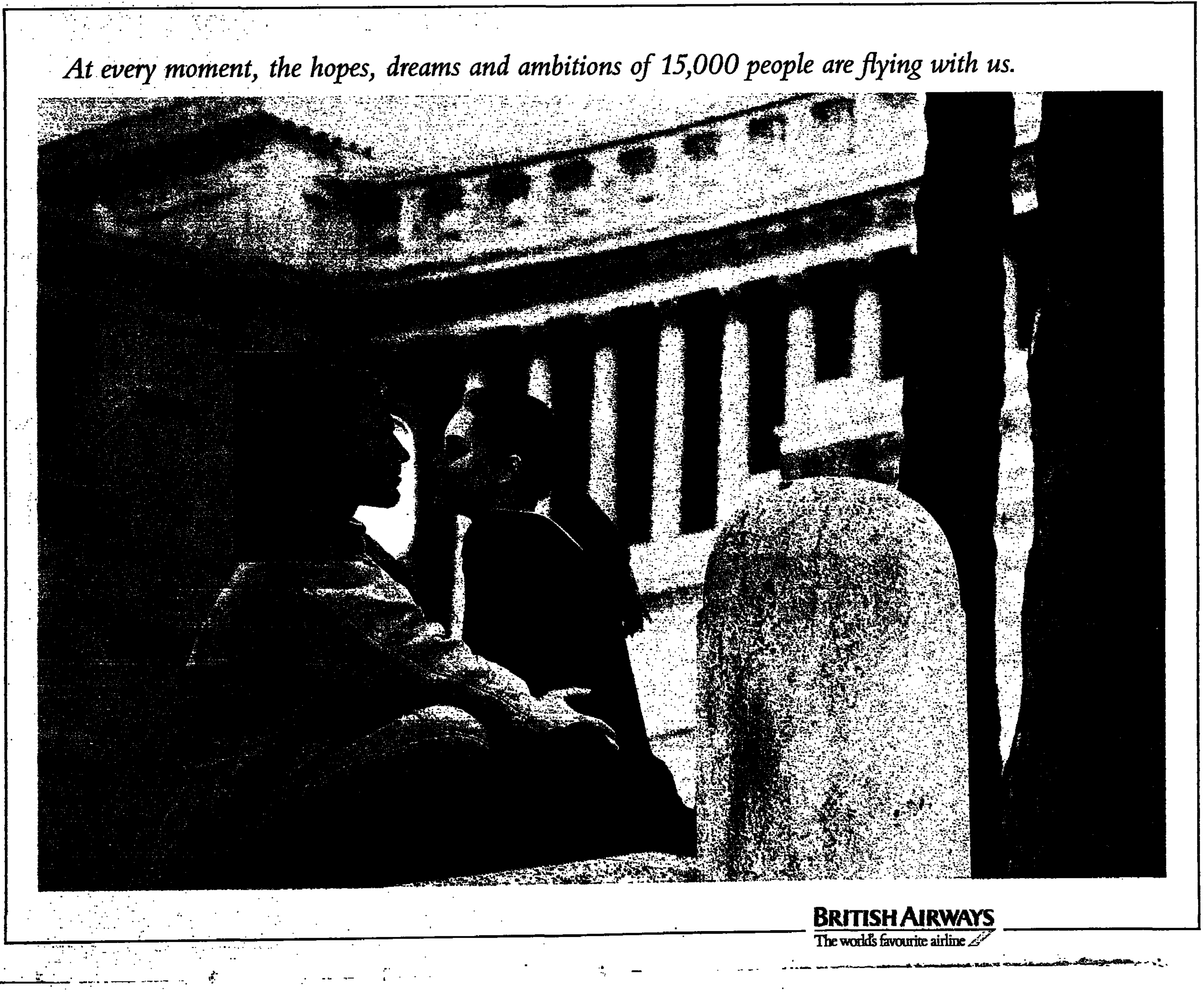
☐ Take a self-catering holiday with Traditional Tuscany (0181-297 1470), staying at one of its many houses within about ten miles of Florence. For example, Villa Camerata (sleeping six) on the Bossi estate costs £480 from July 6-14. Activities available include swimming, riding and fishing. Flights not included in the price.

☐ Cruises along the river Tiber are available again after a long absence. Daily cruises in the morning and afternoon are priced at about £8.50. From the boat, you can enjoy some of Rome's most famous sights and architecture.

☐ Cricketer Holidays (01892 664242) is offering a one-bedroom, self-catering apartment holiday on the Collelungo Estate in the Chianti region of Tuscany. A 14-day stay, from April 30-May 14, including return flights from Heathrow to Pizza, car hire for 12 days, insurance and a day trip to Florence costs £1,139.

☐ Watercolour painting holidays are available from Simply Italy (0181-995 8277). Staying in a traditional farmhouse in the Tuscan hills, seven nights costs £830 per person, including half-board accommodation with wine, trips to Lucca and Florence, painting tuition, transfers and entrance fees. Flights are not included. Departs April 27.

PERRY CLEVELAND-PECK



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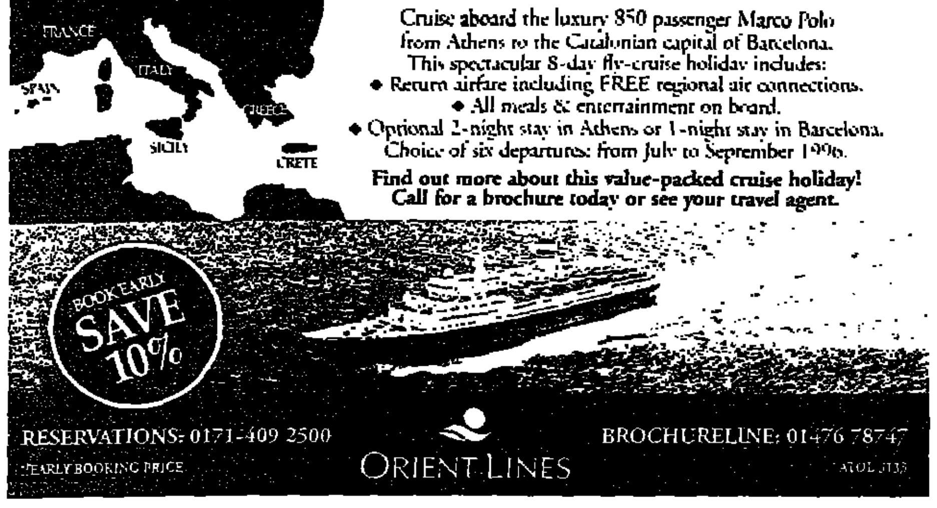

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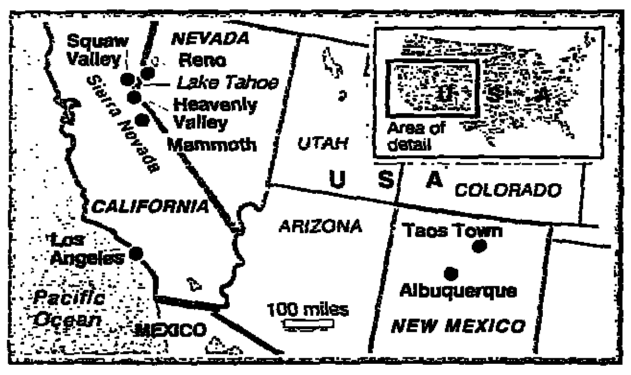
SKIING: America's sunshine states are opening up to the British

Sloping off to the west



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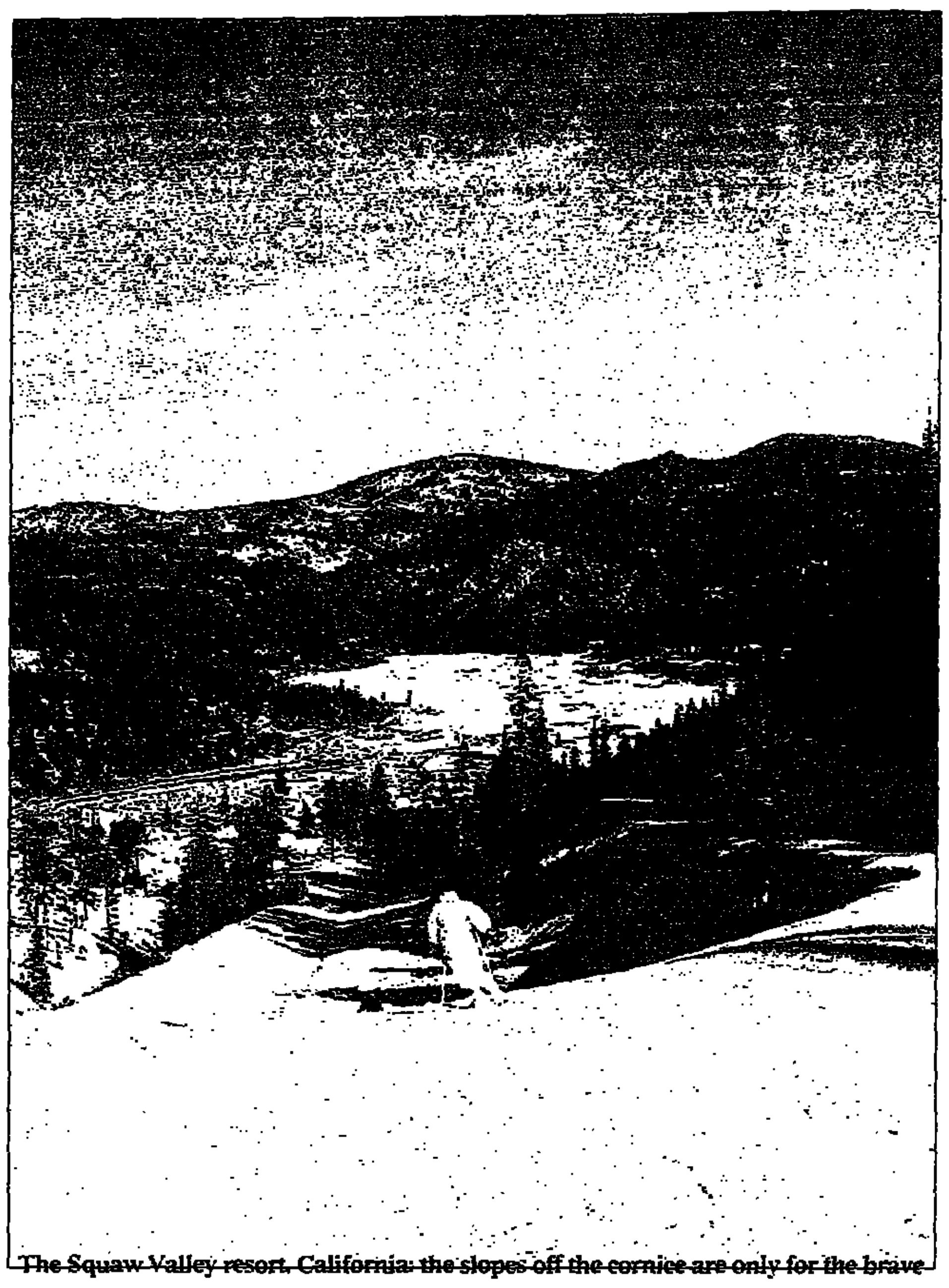

The Squaw Valley resort, California: the slopes off the cornice are only for the brave

The middle-aged Texan on the chairlift at the Taos Ski Valley resort in New Mexico had just arrived. "Eleven hours out of Fort Worth," he drawled. "The kids were at the wheel. 'Go to sleep, Dad,' they said. 'You'll be skiing in the morning'."

And so was I, 15 hours out of Gatwick by Continental Airlines via Houston to Albuquerque, then two hours by Steve Plowden-Wardlaw's 4WD to his Quail Ridge Inn just outside Taos town. The inn is, in fact, the reception and restaurant headquarters of a complex of low, motel-style apartments set around a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, tennis courts and all that is necessary to keep the American holidaymakers happy.

Later, as my host guided me round the mountains, he told tales of Ernie Blake, a German-born Swiss, who turned from the interrogation of Nazi war criminals to the development of his idea of the perfect ski area. Set in America's fourth largest state, which has a population of only 1.25 million, Taos's strength lies in its remoteness.

Only now, with the tour company Ski the American Dream promoting the Quail Ridge Inn and the Kandahar Apartments, is Taos opening up to serious British skiers. They are welcome to do what I did — a heart-pounding trudge up Highline Ridge and a descent leftwards in untracked snow through the trees.

Half of Taos's 72 slopes are for advanced skiers. The night life is low-key, but you need your energies for the skiing.

Too soon, I was off west again, by the no-frills South-West Airline from Albuquerque, and a three-and-a-half-hour flight via Las Vegas (total cost $77, about £50), to Reno, Nevada. Squaw Valley is a further hour's drive around the north of Lake Tahoe. The California-Nevada state border bisects the lake, an azure oval 22 miles long and up to 1,350ft deep. Dotted around this oasis are 14 ski resorts, the largest being Squaw Valley to the northwest, and Heavenly Valley to the southeast.

Squaw is decidedly Californian, its image created by the 1960 Winter Olympics. Heavenly rises above straggling lakeside developments and multistorey, all-night gaming hotels ablaze with lights.

Squaw has six peaks enfolding the plateau of High Camp like a vast armchair. It has something of Chamonix's aura, and the slopes off the cornice are only for the brave.

As elsewhere in America, there are less intimidating alternatives, and at High Camp beginners have the luxury of a high mountain pasture, while non-skiers can ice-skate, bungee-jump, swim or soak up the scenery.

Night skiing is a Squaw speciality. Tom Kelly once coached the Canadian Mahre twins, Phil and Steve, to World Cup triumph by getting them up so early that they were in top form before the Austrians had even woken up. Here, as a services executive, he whizzed off under arc lights assuring me that the snow was pure corduroy for two-and-a-half miles downhill.

The Sierra Nevada gets snow — nearly 40ft of it in some years — but February and March bring warm days. Much of the lodging was built to cater for the Bay Area's huge summer trade, so in 1990 Richard Branson's first efforts to fill mid-winter beds, and Virgin plane seats, with British skiers were very welcome.

Virgin can twin ski resort holidays with sunspots such as Hawaii or Palm Beach, but keen skiers are more likely to couple Lake Tahoe and Mammoth, the nearest big skiing area to Los Angeles.

JOHN SAMUEL

Ski fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Continental Airlines (01293 776464); Taos Ski Valley resort and the Quail Ridge Inn, New Mexico; the Squaw Valley and Heavenly Valley resorts; the Inn by the Lake, South Lake Tahoe; Mammoth Mountain resort and the Alpenhof Lodge.

☐ British operators serving American ski resorts include Virgin (01293 617181), Crystal (0181-399 5144), Inghams (0181-780 4444), Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201), Ski Independence (0131-557 8555) and Skiworld (0171-602 7444).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

BUNKIE
(b) One who shares a bunk with another, a common practice in the Middle Ages that still survives, at least for some Tory MPs. (US colloquialism.)

FAVISM
a) A hereditary form of anaemia manifested surprisingly only after contact with broad-beans. French beans will not do it. (From the Italian adjective *favismo.*) *Dorland's Medical Dictionary* cites this as a "disease of Italy caused by the eating of the bean *Vicia fabia*".

GRIFFE
(b) A claw-shaped ornament carved at the angle of the square base of a column; a spur. (Shortened from the form *Griffen.*) The 1901 *Dictionary of Architecture* promises that: "The griffe is often used for elaborate ornamentation, being carved into vegetable or even animal form."

BELLUM
(c) A small boat or canoe used in ports along the shores of the Persian Gulf. (From the Persian *balam.*)

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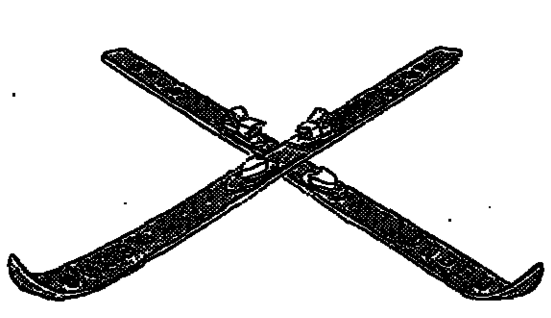

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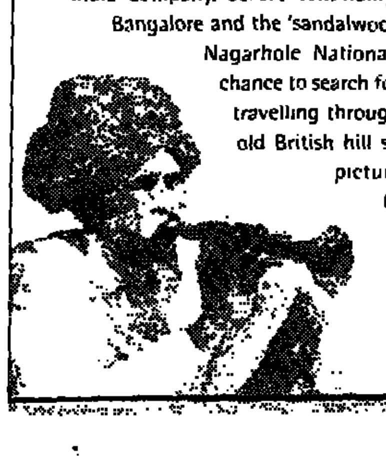

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Ooty	(Savoy Hotel) 2 nights
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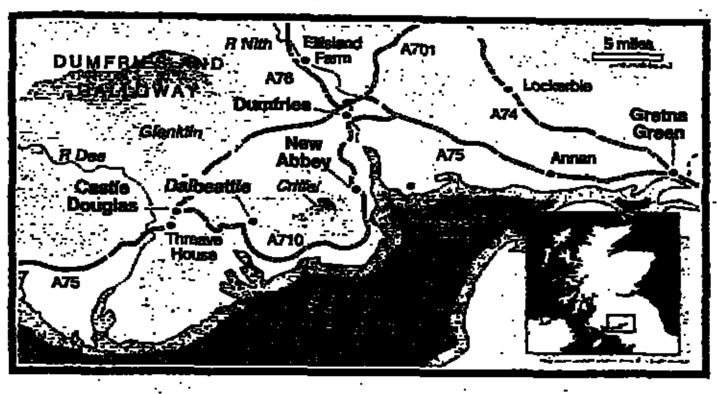
أمكنة من الأمل

SCOTLAND: The countryside which was the inspiration for the national bard and much of his poetry

One often yearns for the land of Burns



Left: Henry Moore's *King and Queen* had pride of place on the moors of Glenkiln, but it was vandalised last year and is being repaired

Art for the people is a common cry, but in one small corner of southwest Scotland they are more populist than that. There's art, *possibly worth millions of pounds*, which is viewed daily by many more sheep and buzzards than human beings.

Dotted around the moors of *Glenkiln*, a remote valley just north of the main road from Dumfries to the port of Stranraer, are three sculptures by Henry Moore, one by Jacob Epstein and another by Auguste Rodin. Open to the elements, they stand free on heather-clad hills and by bracken-lined roads running through land owned by the Keswick estate. The late Sir William Keswick began his collection in 1950, the first time Henry Moore had seen his work in a landscape setting.

The sheep, which outnumber the local population by tens if not hundreds to one, are not in awe. "What a critic," said a shepherd as one of his flock left a small deposit at the base of a Moore figure beside Cornlee Bridge.

Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, would have approved of the setting. Although he was a man of the people, he hobnobbed with the aristocracy and would applaud *the contrast of high art* with humble but noble places. The surrounding countryside was the inspiration for much of his poetry.

Although Ayrshire claims Burns *as its son* — he was born there — the region of Dumfries and Galloway to the south does likewise on the ground that it was here that he was at his most creative and productive in his short life. Millions of people, Japanese and Russians among them, sing *Auld Lang Syne* every year, but not everyone knows who wrote it.

The rivalry hots up with the approach of July 31, 1996, the 200th anniversary of the poet's death, aged just 37. Bicentennial celebrations will be well under way by Burns Night, the traditional annual ritual which marks his birth on January 25. Inevitably, a Burns Trail has been created, which runs through some of the most beautiful and unknown parts of Scotland. Burns was not averse to a drink (or women either) and there are pubs and hostelries aplenty en route, all claiming an association with him.

Who knows, perhaps they were howfs — meeting places with drink on tap — where he penned some of the recently discovered cache of 40 or so poems attributed to him. It all helps this year's "Rabbiefest". Haggis is not compulsory. A far lesser poet wrote:

One often yearns
For the land of Burns
But the only snag is
The haggis.

"Unfair. It's wonderful," says Frank Gourlay, proprietor of Barend holiday village, a group of Scandinavian-style chalets near the coast of the Solway Firth, which was the centre for our intensive introduction to Burns. It lies 20 miles south west of Dumfries, the country town where the ploughman poet lived for the last six years of his life after unsuccessfully farming near by. The Burns Trail takes in Ellisland farm where, walking along the banks of the River Nith, he wrote *Tam O'Shanter*. There are museums, hotels, pubs, houses he lived in, places he visited, many of them kitted out with the whole visitor centre caboodle, audio-visual presentations, tea-towels and all.

One of his favourite watering holes was the Globe Inn, Dumfries. Farmers gathered at the inn, or howf, to do business, so it was natural for Burns to go there on market days. As the evening wore on, the talk would turn to song, mirth and verse — the forerunner to annual Burns suppers.

There is no need to overdose on Burns in Dumfries and Galloway. The district's countryside and coastline are ideal for birdwatching, angling, cycling, rambling, *forest drives and wildfowl* shooting. There are magnificent gardens such as Threave, near Castle Douglas, a garden for all seasons but splendid in springtime when its *daffodil-carpeted slopes would* have had Wordsworth reaching for his pen to knock off an extra verse. Castles, such as 13th-century, moated Caerlaverock, and ruins *such as Sweetheart Abbey, just as* old, are among the country's finest.

Other literary detectives find clues in these parts. It was across the desolate Galloway moors that Richard Hannay, the hero of John Buchan's *The Thirty-nine Steps*, was hunted by police and spies. Russell Paterson, secretary of the John Buchan Society, says: "Members occasionally try to follow in Hannay's footsteps. There are only six genuine local Scottish place names in the book, but there are sufficient topographical references to fill in the gaps."

And at the gateway to Scotland's south west is Gretna Green, famous for runaway marriages at the blacksmith's shop.

Within strolling distance of the chalets at Barend are a restaurant and bar, heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi, horse-riding and pony-trekking, trout *fishing in* a well-stocked loch, and a nine-hole golf course. Within 20 miles are a dozen 18-hole courses.

For energetic enthusiasts of *wonderful views, climb to the top of the* granite mass of Criffel. At less than 2000ft it's no mountain, but impressive all the same because it skirts the sea. On a clear day you can look *south across the Solway Firth to the* Cumbrian coast and the Lakeland hills beyond, and to Carlisle and the Border hills of southern Scotland to the east. After it rains, a quartzite outcrop *shines* so brightly that it is known locally as "the diamond". And afterwards, in the snug bar of the Criffel Inn at New Abbey, a glass of Broughton Bitter tastes all the better.

Tippenny ale tasted good, too, at our Burns supper at the Globe Inn. The haggis was piped in, addressed and served with tatties and neeps. There were toasts, recitations and speeches. A tenor, accompanied by an accordionist, sang melancholy airs. We all sang *For a That and a' That*. Whisky was followed by claret, then more whisky. It was a good evening. Those who survived the course tell me it got better and better. You have been warned.

ALASDAIR RILEY

Cock-a-leekie soup

A CLASSIC Scottish soup, regularly served at Burns suppers. The debate is whether or not to include prunes.

1 boiling fowl or chicken, 2-3lb
1 onion, quartered
1-2lb leeks, chopped into inch-long pieces
4pts beef or veal stock
bay leaf
parsley
salt, pepper
6-12 prunes, soaked overnight (optional)

Place the bird in a large pot with the onion and stock. Bring to the boil, skim and simmer until tender, about two hours, topping up with water if necessary.

Remove the bird and let it cool slightly. Add the green part of the leeks (and prunes, if wanted) and continue to simmer.

Cut white meat off chicken into small pieces and return to the pot with white parts of remaining leeks.

Simmer for a further ten minutes or so. Check seasoning and serve.

Robert Burns: bicentennial celebrations are under way

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board, Campbell House, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4TH (01387 250434).

☐ He stayed at Barend Holiday Village, Sandyhills, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4NU (01387 780663). Prices for self-catering chalets range from £150 sleeping four in January to £530 sleeping six in August.

☐ The John Buchan Society, 16 Ramfurly Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire PA11 3EL (01505 613116).

☐ Christopher Harvie's introduction to the Oxford University Press World Classics edition of *The Thirty-nine Steps* by John Buchan (£3.99) outlines Richard Hannay's probable route over the Galloway moors.

Russian Waterways of the Golden Ring

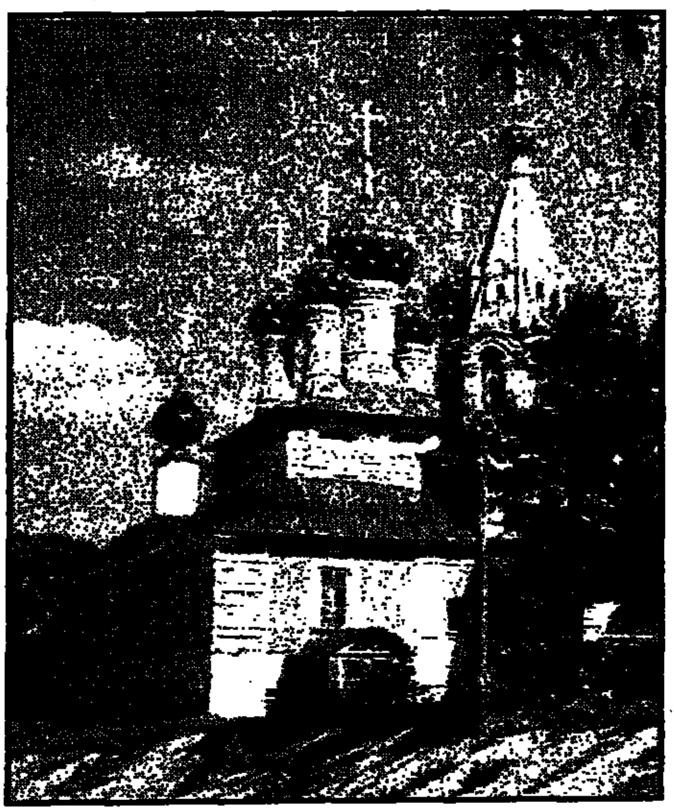
The opening of the waterways between St Petersburg and Moscow allows us to link a visit to two great cities with a relaxing cruise that travels the Neva River, Lake Ladoga, the Svir River, Lake Onega, the Baltic Canal, White Lake, the Volga River and finally the Moscow and Volga Canal. This intricate system of waterways has a beauty that is hard to describe. Serene, peaceful and timeless with silver birch and pine forests, sandy shores, calm flowing water and spectacular late sunsets, in these realms of the 'White Nights'. Calls will be at such historic towns as Uglich, where the blue cupolas decorated with the golden stars of the riverside church make a stunning landmark.

For many the visit to Kizhi Island in Lake Onega will be the highlight of the waterway journey. Here the magnificent Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 shimmering grey domes in three tiers are more than a match for the fairytale splendour of Moscow's St Basil's. From here we cruise through the fascinating waterway system through Coritsy to the cities of the Golden Ring, stopping at Yaroslavl and Uglich on the mighty Volga. These magical cities of Holy Russia still preserve their medieval kremlins, fortified monasteries and churches, in surroundings remote from the modern world.

For this journey we have selected the MS Karamzin which, although not as high a standard as our other vessel the MV Kirov, offers very good facilities considering the competitive tariff. This is especially relevant in view of the high hotel prices now applied in Russia due to the westernisation of the hotels. This tour will therefore appeal to those wishing to see unspoilt parts of Russia from an economical and comfortable base.

The MS Karamzin

This comfortable, well-maintained ship was built in Germany and partially renovated this year. All cabins are outside with large picture window (except those on the Lower Deck that have two portholes), private shower, toilet and individual temperature control; the ship is fully air-conditioned. The bright, pleasant restaurant has windows on three sides offering views as you dine. Cuisine (Russian and Continental) is adjusted to western taste. There is a main lounge/ bar with live music, several more lounges, a souvenir shop, beauty shop and ample deck space. Laundry service is available and a medical doctor is on board. As the ship is now under Western management, you can expect many upgraded amenities (including quality towels, soap, toilet paper, coffee) and better food, service, cruise director and staff.



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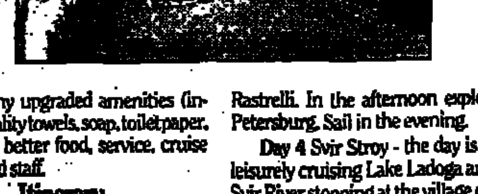

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London Gatwick by air to St Petersburg. Drive to the MS Karamzin which will moor in St Petersburg for two nights.

Day 2 In the morning a sightseeing tour of the city will include the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul.

Day 3 Visit the Hermitage Museum in the morning. Afternoon visit to Pushkin, the blue and gold rococo palace designed for the Empress Elizabeth by Rastrelli. In the afternoon explore St Petersburg. Sail in the evening.

Day 4 Svir Stroy - the day is spent leisurely cruising Lake Ladoga and the Svir River stopping at the village of Svir Stroy, a quaint riverside village.

Day 5 Kizhi Island - sail across Lake Onega to Kizhi Island. A tour will encompass some splendid examples of 18th-century Russian architecture including typical wooden churches, houses with early barns and a windmill.

Day 6 Coritsy - sail along the Baltic Canal and across White Lake to the town of Coritsy to visit the well-preserved Kirill-Belosersk Monastery.

Day 7 Yaroslavl - a city sightseeing tour will include the churches of the Korovniki overlooking the Volga and fine examples of the town's 16th-century architecture.

Day 8 Cruise along the Volga to Uglich. Founded in the 12th century, it was here that Ivan the Terrible's youngest son, Dmitri, was murdered. We visit the Church of St Demetrius, built on the spot where his body was found. On our walking tour we will also see the medieval Kremlin. Sail in the evening towards Moscow.

Day 9 Sail along the River Moskva reaching Moscow itself in the late morning. A city tour is arranged for the afternoon.

Day 10 Morning city tour of Moscow to include the major sights such as Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin.

Day 11 Transfer to the airport for the flight to Gatwick.

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Why an editor must be a midwife

Cheers, it's a book

Every week hundreds of thousands of readers buy a book believing that it sprang direct from the author's brain onto the printed page. Would that it were so straightforward.

The trouble with dealing with writers is that you cannot second-guess them. People say that commissioning editors are the midwives of literature but at least labour has its own more-or-less unvarying timetable. The gestation of a work of literature can be 24 hours (the 24-Hour Novel-Writing Prize), 18 years (*Finnegans Wake*) or several centuries (the Bible). So what exactly does a commissioning editor have to do to get a completed, perfectly honed typescript on his or her desk and ready to go into production?

If you are really lucky, absolutely nothing. The work is submitted, reading it is a pure pleasure and all that remains is to cut a deal.

At the other extreme, desperate measures are required. Some writers sign a contract without telling you of their little problem with writer's block. And for every one who cannot start, there is another who cannot stop.

Coaxing a typescript from an author whose interpretation of a deadline is considerably more flexible than your own can be taxing. One of my authors needed me to edit his chapters as *they* were written. Under pressure of a tight publishing schedule, I had to interrupt a holiday to return to London to read the latest instalment. This was the only way to encourage him to speed on to the next.

Another author, in the throes of composition, needed daily home visits. When these were not getting us there quickly enough, I had to install a freelance editor to spend her days, and most of her evenings, strong-arming the author into producing the book. No midwife has it harder.

Such are the extremes, but commissioning any book — from a synopsis or an idea — is an act of faith. You believe in the thing and you believe in its author, but there follows a long and anxious wait. When at last the finished opus thuds onto your desk, the early pages are turned with a mixture of hope and dread. What if it does not live up to your expectations? Have you and the author been talking about the same thing? What if it is dire?

Sometimes — rarely — it is. That conversation about totally rewriting those 100,000 words is not something to look forward to. I can only remember having to do it four times and on each occasion I was fortunate, since all four authors, though upset, took it on the chin and rewrote. And in each case they substantially improved their novels.

Some writers take no notice of what their editor says. They have worked long and hard and every word to them is sacrosanct. They may be right. But books that cannot be improved on delivery to their publishers are few, and here a creative relationship between author and editor is paramount.

> ‘One author needed daily visits’

Offices are not conducive to careful reading so editors do much of their work out of hours. However, there are pitfalls in having manuscripts around the house. My sons tore up part of one for hamster bedding. A friend and her lover — both publishers — went to sleep in the middle of reading their separate manuscripts and woke up with an indistinguishable muddle of unnumbered pages.

It is also essential to be ready for the totally unexpected. The phone call from Portugal at 11.30pm to correct a single word. The sudden trip to Switzerland to confront the author with a negative libel report. And, worst of all, the author who does a runner, advance in pocket.

The Snipcock & Tweed stereotype has it that publishing is a breeze and that you spend all your time on long lunches, networking and talking to New York. If that is publishing, it is not editing. The trouble is, in the literary labour ward, no one can hear you scream.

FANNY BLAKE

● *The author was the editorial director at Viking Penguin from 1990 to 1995.*

The chinless blunder on

Mary Loudon is aghast to find the snobbish, vacuous formula writing of the 1980s extant

■ UNHOLY HARMONIES
By Elizabeth Pewsey
Sceptre, £16.99

OH NO. Justinia FitzOdo is young, beautiful, talented and unhappy. She has a voice like a lark and pre-Raphaelite hair which tends to tumble abstractedly across her face. On page 1 she forsakes her job and her singing abilities for a miserable marriage to an undeserving philanderer called Digby. Then she hums and haws and hums and haws and hums . . . and on page 320 she finally does something about it.

In the meantime, you have long since worked out what is going to happen and in all likelihood grown bored by the procrastination of this silly, boring, bland piece of female nothingness masquerading as a tragicomic heroine. Suffice it to say that pasts are faced and confronted, secrets discovered, fortunes left to the beautiful and the deserving, sexual desire unleashed and everyone is fulfilled in the town of Unthrang.

I thought they had stopped publishing this sort of drivel in the early 1980s: for *Unholy Harmonies*, just like the 1980s, is as snobbish, as fanciful, as absurd and as socially loaded as they come. Take a look at the names of the characters for a start. There's Justinia, of course, and Magdalena, Lydia, Alban, Genevra, Zephania, Sylvester and so on. And those are only the upper-middle-class characters.

There is also a vicar called Holigost. The cleaner is called Mrs Toadflax, and the female publican, Mrs Herb. The characters with the poncy names use words such as divine, irksome, luscious, beastly, tiresome, dire and jolly. Mrs Herb says things such as "aye" and "nowt". Mrs Toadflax does not say anything.

And the prose? The trick of good writing is to *show*, not to tell; to suggest, not to insist. The trouble with Elizabeth Pewsey's writing is that she does precisely the opposite: it is as if she is too lazy or too unimaginative to illustrate what she wants to describe, as if she thinks that taking her word for everything is good enough, and moreover, that her clichéd and snobbish tone will not cause offence.

I am afraid *Unholy Harmonies* is what some people call an easy read and what I call "shopping-list" writing. It is so easy, so bland and oh, so boring. Please, please, Elizabeth Pewsey, write something else, because it is an old story and it has been better told before.

Klavan: jazzy language

Among dead puppets

■ AGNES MALLORY
By Andrew Klavan
Little, Brown, £15.99

LUCKY Harry Bernard. Nice blonde wife, adorable kid, an apartment on Central Park West and a promising career as a lawyer-in-shining-armour, rooting out corruption in the New York political machine. What more could he possibly want?

Why, Agnes Mallory, of course. Or Agnes Sole, as he knew her when he was a nine-year-old and she was a witchy wood-sprite, telling him tales of a half-sister who died in the Holocaust and modelling skulls out of Playdoh. Agnes, whose mother was beautiful where Harry's was not, and who knew the names of all the stars — even though it was Harry's father who had wanted to be an astronomer.

Andrew Klaven's latest novel is an intriguing mongrel of a book, part mystery, part ghost story, and partly a disturbing evocation of the power of childhood memories. Agnes haunts Harry while she lives, and she haunts him after her death, when he vanishes from his previous life, a victim of his eidetic recollection of their past. He almost seems like a ghost himself ("in the old days, when people still said things to me"). It is a mysterious, eerily familiar visitor who drags his tale from him, and what emerges is not just a tale of childhood friendship gone wrong, but of a woman overshadowed by a past she cannot control, tainting her whole life with its "aura of obscure misery".

Klaven's language is jazzy and arresting, full of shocking and visceral images. The vacancy of a body after death makes him see life as nothing more than a puppet show: "a puppet show done with corpses". Klaven lets horror reveal truth. He is not afraid to venture into Harry's swiftest, most uncensored thoughts, the "Inner Man" who wants it all and does not care how he gets it. But Harry does not care what we think of him. It is this that makes him likeable, even if he is weak, a crook, a schmuck.

But for all his faults, Harry loved Agnes Mallory — not just her quick, hard body but her tormented soul, too; surely her maiden name is no coincidence.

This is a flawed novel: its initial long passages of italics are confusing, and it has, at times, the jumbled quality of real memory. But this lends it authenticity too. And Agnes haunts the reader: that is no small feat.

ERICA WAGNER

Hostages to the silence

■ A MAIDEN'S GRAVE
By Jeffrey Deaver
Hodder & Stoughton, £12

IN Jeffrey Deaver's new thriller Arthur Potter, an all-too-human, ageing, widowed FBI negotiator, runs up against the most carefree killer of his career, holed up in a slaughterhouse with eight young girls and their two female teachers. The killer is partnered by his stoat-like second-in-command and an obese serial rapist. As a further complication, this is no ordinary school party; all, save one hysterical older teacher, are deaf.

Not since *Children of a Lesser God* has there been such a moving, and in this case unequivocally unpatronising, depiction of the world of the Deaf, which they themselves spell with a capital D as a socio-political statement. As his reluctant heroine, Melanie, puts it: "I'm Deaf with attitude".

But where this book really sings is in the psychology: Potter's self-conscious exploitation of his own emotional vulnerability to empathise with the hostage-taker. His skill is to descend with the potential killer to a mutual resignation, while avoiding the danger of empathy turning into sympathy.

Aided by high technology but hindered by a host of interferers, Potter must tease the hostages free one by one without drawing blood. Deaver knits a seamless fabric of tightening tension right up to an explosive double-whammy ending.

A Maiden's Grave is a gripping, human literary fugue that ends with a brilliant sleight of hand and an explosive punctuation mark. It is Deaver's best book yet.

PETER MILLAR

Dragging their tails behind them: *Lost sheep in a lane, Millhams, Devon* from *A Corner of England: North Devon landscapes and people* by James Ravillious (Devon Books, £19.95), selected from 17 years of photography

Phantom of a rural soap opera

■ REVENANCY
By Terence Blacker
Bloomsbury, £15.99

BURTHORPE is an unremarkable little village, typical both of East Anglia, and a certain sort of satirical English fiction. For the outsider, it does a passable imitation as the dullest place on earth, but of course it has its own dramas: the squire is having an affair with the editor of the local paper, but only loves his dying dog: the undertaker has secret ambitions to expand his funeral home and secret trysts with the local estate agent; the village shop-keeper has paedophiliac tendencies.

New Age travellers and new property developments threaten further to blight its already limited charms. Its inhabitants seem constantly engaged in either sexual or civic battle.

Into all this, like the Lone Ranger, rides Margaret Cowper. She is a pretty, elfin little thing, wearing slightly odd, trendy clothes. All the men fancy her. They think she is in her late twenties. In fact, she is about 500.

Terence Blacker has created an Aga Spectre. Margaret is really Meg, the ill-used mistress of the Tudor poet John Skelton. Her soul has been restless since her suicide in the early 16th century: now she has materialised to find love, and she goes through Burthorpe like the Terminator in her attempt to get it. For those who cross or merely offend her, she has a variety of punishments: some men are burnt alive, a few women are cursed with green menstrual blood. Margaret is the mistress of the untimely end.

Blacker: ghost of change

As well as having an ambitious undertaker to clean up the mess, Burthorpe also, fortunately, boasts a thanatologist who can translate it all. The term "revenance" is his invention: it can mean "a return from the dead" as well as "something pleasing, memorable, attractive".

This is not in any way a thriller of the supernatural. It may have the same final body count as that of a Stephen King novel, but there is absolutely none of the horror. Instead, Blacker has written a deft and entertaining tale of a village which needs to change, and where it takes a ghost to make things happen.

GILL HORNBY

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The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship is regarded by many as the most prestigious event in the bridge calendar and the one which all players most aspire to win.

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Prices are as follows:
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Thursday, 12noon-4pm: £10; 5.30pm-11pm: £12.50 full day £15
Friday, 12.30-6.30pm £15.
Tickets to be collected from the box office at the White House Hotel.

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5	THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH **Salman Rushdie** *(Cape)*	£15.99	0	6
6	THE JOLLY POCKET POSTMAN **Janet & Alan Ahlberg** *(Heinemann)*	£5.49	8	4
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TEENAGE STORIES

No short measure

THE **Story Library Series** (Kingfisher, £9.99 hbk, £4.99 pbk each) is an enlightened collection of anthologies for older teenagers, arranged by theme. In **Fantasy Stories**, compiled by Diana Wynne Jones, herself an inventive fantasy writer, we have a series of extracts from almost forgotten one-time favourites. You could call it a rescue job. *The Amazing Flight of the Gump* by L. Frank Baum, for instance, is well worth rescuing. It comes from *The Land of Oz*, Baum's companion to *The Wizard of Oz*, in which an army of girl soldiers takes over the emerald city.

Una and the Red Cross Knight, by Andrew Lang is another treat, showing the effects of an unscheduled dragon on the lives of seemingly "fortunate people to whom nothing ever happens".

Atmospherically illustrated in black and white by Robin Lawrie, the collection contains 18 stories by fantasy writers, including C. S. Lewis's *The Silver Chair* and Elizabeth Goudge's *Henrietta's House*.

True Stories, compiled by Anthony Masters, proves that there are many forms of courage. Some of the people in this collection, such as Charles Lindbergh and Clare Francis, deliberately sought out danger. Others, such as Colonel Archibald Gracie on the *Titanic*, Pauline Cutting in the Palestinian refugee camps and — particularly riveting — Dian Fossey, whose protection of the African gorillas that she came to study ended in her murder, behaved heroically when thrown into adverse circumstances.

Being squeamish, I did not particularly go for *Gabriel-Ernest*, Saki's disquieting classic of a cannibalistic werewolf boy, nor John Steinbeck's of the bubble gum that chewed back, but these and other stories give **Horror Stories**, chosen by Susan Price, an enjoyable aura of respectability. For 9 to 14-year-olds.

Making and losing friends is an important part of growing up, and **Best of Friends**, edited by Valerie Bearman (Methuen, £9.99), contains eight specially commissioned stories from contemporary writers such as Theresa Breslin and Robert Westall on a subject which can provide some of the best and worst days in the life of an 8 to 13-year-old.

MAUREEN OWEN

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[illegible]

A survivor's tale: Dachau's liberation on May 3, 1945

■ SACRED GAMES
By Gerald Jacobs
Penguin, £6.99

CAN WE speak the unspeakable? Miklos Hammer spent 40 years being unable to speak about his experiences in the Nazi death camps. He could not even tell his wife, whom he met after the war, about what he had endured in Dachau, Buchenwald and Auschwitz. His memories had, in effect, rendered him speechless: there were simply things about which he could say nothing. There was also an element of guilt: as Primo Levi has made poignantly clear, the survivor is in a certain sense ashamed of his survival. He can never forget those he left behind.

Hammer eventually decided to share his story with Gerald Jacobs of the *Jewish Chronicle*. Born in Hungary in 1920, he grew up in a studiously devout household (his father was a rabbi), part of the thriving central European Jewish culture that was swallowed up in the Nazi storm. Hammer hoped to become a doctor: but his studies were interrupted by the war, and in 1941 he was conscripted into the *Arbeitsdienst*, the Jewish labour brigade. Three years later he found himself in what George Steiner has called "the final hell" of Auschwitz.

Hammer says he owes his life to an Englishman, Peter Howard, whom he met by chance on a train bound for Dachau but who disappeared during the journey. Thanks to this, Hammer was able to assume Howard's identity and thus avoided being rounded up and murdered with the other Jews on the train.

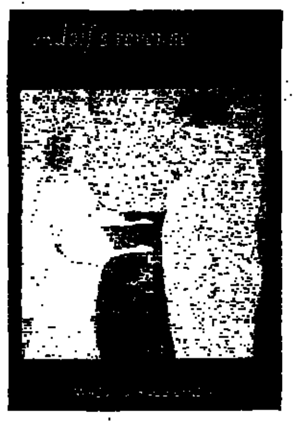
This book, which bears witness to unspeakable suffering, is a moving testament to astonishing bravery and fortitude.

■ BEING DIGITAL
By Nicholas Negroponte
Coronet, £6.99

AN EXCELLENT layman's guide to the high-tech future. *Being Digital* explains the basics of the world's new computer and telecommunications systems, from bits and bandwidth to CD-Roms and interface design. Negroponte, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Studies Lab and columnist for *Wired* magazine, writes with informed intelligence and lively clarity, criticising dumb industrial developments and, though not dwelling on the dark side, throwing up big cultural questions. His predictions of earring-sized PCs and video recorders that tape programmes on your selected subject are at once thrilling and unsettling. A must for technophobes.

■ DREAMERS
By Elaine Feinstein
Pan, £6.99

IN THE WAKE of the 1848 Vienna uprising, two bright Jewish children scrape a meagre living in a suburban ghetto. But, as their ways part, their fortunes change. Joseph, who played the violin for pennies in a café, becomes a celebrated virtuoso, while Clara grows into an independent-spirited young teacher. But Joseph's affairs with glittering sopranos serve only to emphasise his loneliness, and Clara, dismayed by various brutish assaults on her virtue, resolves to remain chaste for ever. Whatever could they both be yearning for? An upmarket bodice-ripper, with cameo appearances by Brahms, Strauss and Heine.



■ ADOLF'S REVENGE
By Lynne Alexander
Abacus, £8.99

AUNT Adolf is livid when a well-connected Englishman ("The Prince") lures Chick, the niece she dotes upon, across the Atlantic. But when he finally dumps her, Adolf's fury knows no bounds and she attempts revenge. A fairly straightforward story, you might think, of a nice Jewish girl who marries out — but not in the hands of this richly inventive writer. Lynne Alexander uses resonant, biblical language to create a fantastic world of characters as grotesque and funny as those of Günter Grass. A tale of power and manipulation that deals in raw emotions and pokes fun at predictable happy endings.

Contributors: Jason Cowley, Kate Bassett, Nicki Household, Hazel Leslie

JUMBO CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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The winner of the Christmas Jumbo Crossword, published on December 23, is Mrs P. Judges of Osbaldwick, Yorkshire. She will receive £100 and a Methuselah of Moët and Chandon champagne.

The five runners-up, who will each receive £100, are:
Mr D.J. Evans of Morriston, Swansea; Mrs C.A. Bell of Guildford, Surrey; Miss E.H. O'Toole of London; C.R. Thompson of Edinburgh and Mr N. Harris of London.

America lost the war but the Vietnamese lost much, much more, says **Tunku Varadarajan**

Vietnam, a victor's tragedy

■ *NOVEL WITHOUT A NAME*
By Duong Thu Huong
Picador, £5.99

WE HAVE lived with America's Vietnam memory for more than 20 years. The Americans fought there, and got caned, but made sure to thrust upon the rest of the world their intense post-bellum trauma. Hollywood and a conveyor belt of GI Viet Lit have replayed the war from every angle: no audience has been spared. Yet one perspective has been denied to us consistently: "the other side". What was it like for the soldiers of the Vietcong?

The Vietnamese heave their hearts into their mouths a little less easily than do the Americans. Inherent reticence, deep battle scars and years of one-party rule have all conspired against the emergence of a Vietnamese literature of war. Now, a writer of rare refinement, a woman who herself spent seven years on the front line in the "American war", has tilted the bitter balance a little in her country's favour.

Novel Without A Name, by Duong Thu Huong, had first to be smuggled out of Vietnam. The author, an advocate of democratic reform, has been imprisoned and muzzled by the regime in Hanoi. They did not like the book and it is easy to see why.

The novel is, foremost, about the futility of the war — about the waste of lives, relationships and passion. But it is not a tract. So stripped of heroism is the depiction of battle, hunger and injury that no sensitive Vietnamese could have read it and failed to ask prickly questions about the country's pyrrhic victory.

Quan, the novel's main character, is a kind of special Everyman. The book describes his journey on furlough from the front line to his home village, towards the end of the war. His task is to accompany a childhood friend, Bien, who has been maddened by combat, to the comfort of an upcountry regiment. The slow, tormented journey — his odyssey — takes him through the landscape of a scorched country.

Quan travels, also, through the geography of his imagination, trawling through childhood memories of play and love, of the day he enlisted for the glory of the party, of battles past and comrades dead. And the author, all the while, weaves threads from the present — the pleasures of a can of Chinese meat, the pathetic advances of a widowed woman, a gift from the front of a comb made of aircraft metal — into the fabric of his recollections. The future for Quan, in the end, is but a heap of bitterness from the past. Duong Thu Huong has written a story to cherish. Nothing in the canon of American literature on Vietnam can match it.

Blindfolded and bound, a female Vietcong suspect is taken away by an American soldier after Operation Mallard, a round-up preceded by heavy bombing, in 1966

First flurries of snow to come

■ THE COUNTRY AHEAD OF US, THE COUNTRY BEHIND
By David Guterson
Bloomsbury, £5.99

THE MANY admirers of last *year's excellent Snow Falling on Cedars* — still at No 1 in the *Times* paperback chart — will be glad to see this earlier collection of short stories from David Guterson as they wait for his next novel to appear. These stories were published in America six years ago but already display the fine touch of the later book.

A broad landscape stretches out through the stories, of creeks and canyons, dust paths and sage deserts, birch groves and fir forests. The quiet assurance and clean *detail of Guterson's prose* make his subjects appear true and compelling — in *Snow Falling on Cedars* there was salmon fishing and strawberry picking; here he traces the careful rituals of duck shooting and camping out by the lakes in America's Northwest.

His scenes are built up through keen attention to their most evocative elements, making them thoroughly present to the mind's eye: "Along the strip of autumnal, shameless motels, hunters loaded gear in lots, lit by running lights, *steam spewing from their* mouths. The dogs circling just beyond the fires, the bald fences enclosing vacant guest pools, the last of the good willow beneath lonesome heavens." Visual power is drawn from the unexpected sequence of images he has chosen — willow leaves followed by slaughterhouses.

THERE are no big dramas, no pitched battles here, just marriages that gradually run down, men who grow older, small but formative misunderstandings, pauses for reflection — the stuff of Raymond Carver. As with Carver, Guterson never shows all his hand; there is a sense that his material is pared back from a far larger resource, leaving much unsaid. When his char*acters suffer moments of emo*tional intensity for which they are unable to find words, attention rests instead on external details that consequently become charged with significance — the windscreen wipers, the road ahead, a flight of birds.

Undercurrents are betrayed by a single physical gesture — the grandfather who realises his hunting days are over and wordlessly leaves his gun behind in his son's car, the Vietnam veteran who finishes off a wounded bird, unable to watch it suffer. In between the silences, the dialogue is spare and efficient; indeed the only character in the book who says too much soon regrets it, in the opening story.

These ten brief pieces confirm Guterson's sure instinct *as a writer with the gift of* making good prose look just so easy.

HARRIET PATERSON

Faith, hope and pious gravity

■ ANGELS AND MEN
By Catherine Fox
Hamish Hamilton, £16

CATHERINE FOX sets her first novel in the heart of a cathedral city but she has more in common with a feminist Christian novelist such as Sara Maitland than with Anthony Trollope. The comedy that flows from the social and political structures of Anglicanism is not her subject. Instead *Angels and Men* follows a year in the life of a postgraduate student, Mara Johns, as she studies women and fanaticism and struggles to free herself from the horror of her twin sister's disastrous involvement with a religious cult.

Mara is a child of the Church of England, daughter of a rural dean, and on the surface she is enjoying the prolonged, privileged adolescence of the English middle classes. But Mara is numbed by her sister's tragedy, and by a sense of rejection which stems from childhood.

Fox makes Mara the focus of the novel, with her intensity and solipsism setting its tone. Mara is visited by angels, but believes she has lost her faith. Irritatingly, she also persists in considering herself plain — eyes too big, hair too luxuriant and so on — when it is clear from the response of every male she meets that she is devastatingly attractive. This ensures that her progress from despair to a kind of hope is not a solitary one.

She is drawn into a closed community of students and trainee vicars who attend prayer meetings and sedulously probe their own relationships and motives. It is an anachronistic fictional world: these students do not panic *about overdrafts*, follow the storyline of *Brookside* or *EastEnders* nor juggle essays with part-time jobs.

Angels and Men does not seem to have decided quite what kind of novel it wants to be. More edge and detachment in the writing *might* have let a sharper and funnier book emerge. But it has strengths and among them is its passionate dramatisation of the differences between a church and a cult.

Fox clearly knows this territory well and she writes with verve about the way Christianity is always at the mercy of its interpreters.

HELEN DUNMORE

Wheelchair with attitude

How a paraplegic journalist made a mission for himself

■ DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE
By John Hockenberry
Viking, £16

WHEN *an autobiography is sold as* "achingly honest", it usually means embarrassing. Nor does the heart lift at the prospect of yet another set of journalist's war memoirs. John Hockenberry's *Declarations of Independence* is by a wheelchair-bound Middle East reporter, and I admit that I expected little joy of it.

Ten pages in, I apologised aloud to the author. An hour later I gave up using markers because I was tabbing every page. It is a marvellous book: tough, acute, personal, barkingly funny and often so moving that you have to lay it down. It has a curious quality I can only describe as in-your-face grace.

Hockenberry was paralysed from the chest down at 19. He has since been a music student, a reporter, a finalist for the "journalist in space" programme ("In a weightless environment, who needs legs?") and an importunate lover capable of lunacies such as semi-accidentally concealing himself and his folded wheel*chair all night under his girlfriend's bed.* He tells it all: the problems of hygienic self-catheterisation in a war zone, the rudeness of Stephen Hawking, the shame an American citizen felt among the refugee Kurds after the Gulf "victory", and the way paraplegics compete and despise one another like any other gang of *young men*.

Hockenberry: in-your-face grace

He loathes Oprah victims and "telethon crips", jeers at role models, refuses pity with venom and confides that it is seen as a "pansy-assed" thing for a paraplegic to have armrests. Real men toss armless chairs onto side-hooks on filthy pickup trucks and practice hot-dogging onto the kerb alone, under cover of the night, in deserted shopping malls.

It is often active young men who end up in wheelchairs and this book solves the conundrum of what happens to their arrogant machismo: nothing. Yet he sees his own absurdities clearly and quotes with glee his father's line, "Son, I think you use that wheelchair as a crutch".

He spent months perfecting a bite-down device to enable him to use the pedals on a piano, then blithely gave it up in favour of the harpsichord so he could concentrate on the music. After a humiliating moment as a tyro reporter when an interviewee absentmindedly handed him a dollar, he admits that it was partly his fault for rolling around with big, mad, red socks on, because wearing shoes was a sell-out to the walking lobby.

In the course of the book, he grows up. The suffering of Kurds and Somalis puts his own into perspective; in the mud, fallen from his donkey in the mountains, he even learns to accept help. "In Kurdistan I discovered that the world is a much larger place than can be filled by *the mission of one man and his wheel*chair." But what a man, and what a mission.

LIBBY PURVES

Where holiness shines

In a village in Piedmont, Mammon is haunted by a young girl's visions

■ *THE SHRINE*
By Cristina Odone
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

*IT SEEMS an unjust distribu*tion of talent that Cristina Odone, who has already demonstrated her journalistic ability as editor of the *Catholic Herald*, should now show that she can write a subtle and enjoyable novel. When I first read *The Shrine* in manuscript, I started it with the anxiety one inevitably feels when asked to judge the work of a friend, but was soon captivated by her portrayal of life in the Piedmont village of San Lorenzo.

Odone's heroine, Alma Ferrati, a painter living in Turin, returns on the death of her father to her family home in the village. It is the grandest house in San Lorenzo, surrounded by its own estate, but it turns out that her swash*buckling father has left noth*ing but debts. Together with her brother, Francesco, Alma must try to salvage an inheritance that embodies everything they hold dear.

Meanwhile, the local inhabitants hatch a plot to exploit the visions of the Virgin Mary that have come to Santarella, a pious girl in the village, by making San Lorenzo into a shrine. Santarella's mother is the mistress of the mayor; Don Luigi is the parish priest. Odone sketches the characters of half-a-dozen villagers with great skill and restraint; they might so easily have degenerated into "Don Camillo" stereotypes.

The link between the small world of San Lorenzo and the wider and more sophisticated life known to the Ferratis in London and Turin is the local lawyer, Miso Brusoni, Alma's suitor and Francesco's childhood friend. The link proves weak. Alma is a child of her time. Men are a threat to her autonomy and independence. "When he kissed her, she felt as if she had abandoned all claim to herself."

Odone: talent to spare

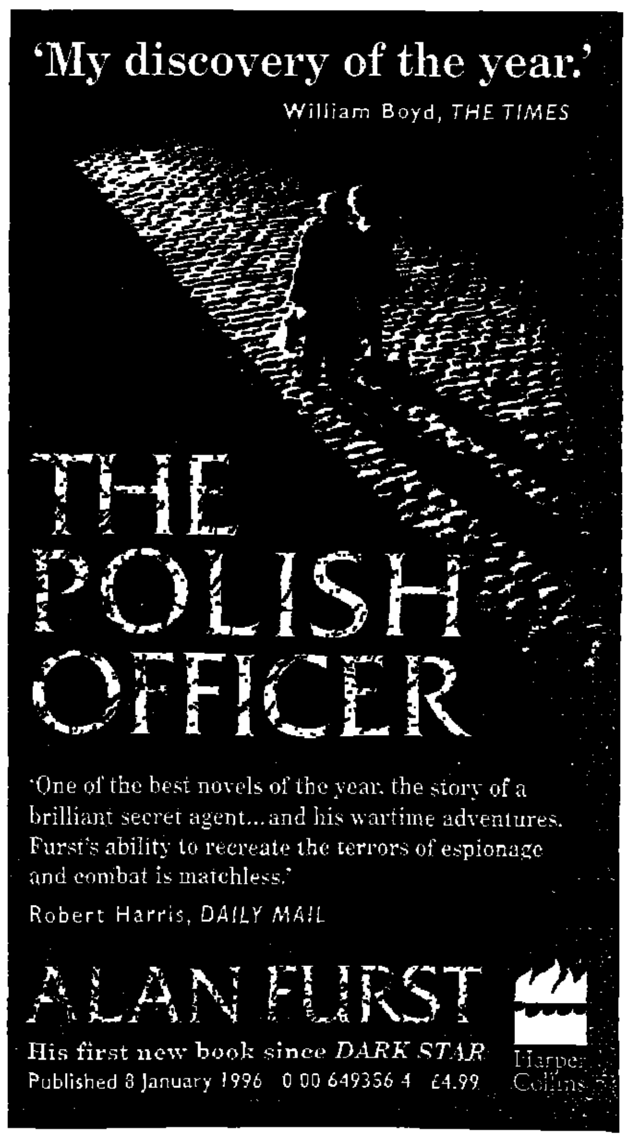
So too is the security represented by San Lorenzo. She rejects the idea of a life like Miso's as a big fish in a small bowl and chooses instead the challenge of life in Turin. But always haunting the urbane and sophisticated Ferratis is *the ethereal visionary*, Santarella, an image of innocence and holiness in a confused and compromised world.

PIERS PAUL READ

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Andrew Roberts on Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen; Peter Ackroyd on Coleridge; Roger Scruton on a new translation of *The Man Without Qualities*; and Jasper Rees on J. G. Ballard



'My discovery of the year.'
William Boyd, *THE TIMES*

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Robert Harris, *DAILY MAIL*

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Harper Collins

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Sibelius in symphony and song; why McFerrin should worry; good reasons not to vote Tori

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ SIBELIUS
Symphonies 2 & 6
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra/Maazel
Sony SK 53 268★★

LORIN MAAZEL'S cycle of the Sibelius symphonies with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, recorded in the 1960s, has long been one of the pillars of the catalogue. In 1992 Decca reissued it on three bargain-price CDs, but by then Maazel had already embarked on another Sibelius cycle for Sony, this time with the Pittsburgh Symphony, of which he is music director. Symphonies 1, 4, 5 and 7 of this second cycle have already disappeared from the catalogue (temporarily, one hopes), yet here is Sony putting out a further disc, of the Second and Sixth, recorded at the same time as the others at the beginning of the 1990s.

Maazel: hint of melancholy

Over the course of three decades, Maazel's understanding of Sibelius has deepened by contrast with his earlier set. This is particularly evident in the Second, which was harder driven with the VPO, the opening movement pushed on especially precipitously. Now Maazel gives more attention to the "poco" of the "Poco Allegro" at the initial gathering of speed in the first movement, and his approach generally is to allow tensions to accumulate and unwind under their own momentum.

This is the key to great Sibelius conducting and nobody understands that better than Colin Davis, who also has a new cycle under way. Davis's recording of the Second and Sixth will prove difficult to beat. His tempos for the former are always judicious (Maazel begins sluggishly), there is more bite to his running quavers in the Scherzo third movement and a more satisfying climax in the finale.

Things improve for Maazel in the Sixth: the heartwarming string ensemble of the opening has just the right hint of melancholy, the flickering half-lights of the second movement are nicely caught and the tragic build-up in the final stages skilfully engineered.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ FERNANDO DE LA MORA
The Artistry of Fernando de la Mora
Welsh National Opera Orchestra/Mackerras
Telarc CD-80411★★★

THE MEXICAN tenor, Fernando de la Mora, is still little known in Britain. He stepped in for Alfredo Kraus during the run of *L'elisir d'amore* at Covent Garden three years ago but has not been back. Some reckon he is the man among the 30-year-olds most likely to give Roberto Alagna a run for his money.

His first recital disc for Telarc is almost a gauntlet thrown down at Alagna's feet. De la Mora tackles some of the French opera roles Alagna has been singing or will be singing before long: Gounod's Roméo, Bizet's José and, perhaps most saucily of all, Massenet's Werther. Identical arias can be found on Alagna's own EMI recital disc of a few months back.

The Mexican cannot command the liquid, almost caressing sound that makes Alagna so impressive in 19th-century French opera. Otherwise he carries a formidable range of tenor armoury. High Cs, loud and soft, cause him no problem. Nor do the even loftier pinnacles of Tonio's *Ah! mes amis* from Donizetti's *La Fille du régiment*. The real quality of de la Mora's voice, though, shows in the warm, enveloping flow he gives to familiar arias by Puccini, Cilea and Giordano. The Italian *verismo* repertory sounds tailor-made for him on the strength of this recital. Note the name and try the disc.

Charles Mackerras and the Welsh National Opera Orchestra provide sturdy support. The accompanying booklet lists two recording dates and venues, one in Swansea and the other in Cincinnati, but Telarc say this is a printing error.

☐ AMANDA ROOCROFT
Mozart and his Contemporaries
Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields/Marriner
EMI CDC 5 55396 2★★

HERE is Roocroft in high dramatic mood. Mozart is represented by two concert arias and three heroines: Ilia, Donna Elvira and Fiordiligi.

Roocroft: to opulent effect

The new-found weight in Roocroft's soprano is shown off to opulent effect and she puts passion into everything, even when it leads to a certain hardness in the voice.

The "Contemporaries", Cimarosa and Haydn, are even more florid. The lengthy outburst *Deh, parlate* from *Il sacrificio d'Abramo*, written in the same year as *Figaro*, will surprise those who think of Cimarosa only as the jolly composer of *Matrimonio segreto*. He could trade in lofty sentiments with the best of them. So too could Haydn as he runs through any number of emotions in the *Scena di Berenice*. Roocroft has the technical skill to make the most of these show-off pieces.

But the recital is monotonously heavyweight and could have done with an item or two to expose the sparky, flirtatious side Roocroft so memorably displayed in her first Glyndebourne *Così*. The accompaniment from Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin's is reverential.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SIBELIUS
Songs
Mattila/Ranta
Ondine ODE 856-2★★★

THE FINNISH soprano Karita Mattila, in clear, pure, yet ever more lustrous voice, offers 24 of Sibelius's hundred or more still neglected songs in this irresistible recital with pianist Ilmo Ranta. Here is many a dream of a summer night, and of the "blue hour" of the Nordic twilight in *Fagellek* (*Play of the Birds*) and the strange, sparsely accompanied lines of the swan's song in *Jubal*.

Mattila recreates powerfully the sensuous urgency of Sibelius's settings of his beloved poet J. L. Runeberg. Her performances of *The First Kiss*, *The Tryst* and *The North* are nicely complemented by Sibelius's more supple, lilting settings of the Finnish language: songs like *Lastu lainehilla* (*Driftwood*) and *Kaiutar* (*The Echo Nymph*) are just two of the rare delights of this disc.

☐ KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD
Live Performances
1935-48, 1948-57
Simax PSC 1822, 1823★★

CONNOISSEURS of the Nordic voice will be happy to know that the second and third volumes of Simax's survey of the live performances of the great Norwegian soprano Kirsten Flagstad are now available. Volume 3 contains three CDs of exceptional interest. Here are the ten Grieg songs she performed in national costume with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sir Malcolm Sargent at the 1957 Royal Albert Hall concert celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Grieg's death. Already ill with the bone cancer which killed her, Flagstad sings *Vaaren* (*Spring*) with a broad radiance, infused with a deep inner melancholy.

Here, too, are the Wagner *Wesendonck-Lieder* she recorded in 1952 with the Royal Philharmonic and Sir Thomas Beecham. These are rhythmically robust, well-defined performances in pretty rough recordings.

Flagstad: broad radiance

Even poorer recording quality mars an otherwise quite wonderful *Four Last Songs*, performed at the request of Richard Strauss himself, with Wilhelm Furtwängler conducting the Philharmonic in an exultant, vibrant Albert Hall debut in May 1950.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ BOBBY McFERRIN
Bang! Zoom
Blue Note CDP8-316772★

A BRAVE man, Bobby McFerrin. Using just his imagination and various parts of his anatomy, he overturned our ideas of what constitutes a jazz singer, veered off into unexpected pop stardom with *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, only to return in a new incarnation as a bona fide orchestral conductor. An opera, we are promised, is on the way. Released just a few months after *Paper Music* — his controversial excursion into the popular classics — *Bang! Zoom* bears all the signs of a restlessly inquisitive musician who is beginning to spread himself thin.

The ethereal voice continues to dazzle and defy gravity. The problem lies in the inconsequential melodies and 1970s pastiches. Nobody who grew up listening to Earth Wind & Fire or Stevie Wonder will be left unmoved by McFerrin's sense of fun, while the occasional percolating noise of bass clarinet in the background evokes memories of the fusion-and-flares cocktails that Herbie Hancock served up 20-odd years ago. The truth remains that both the instrumentals and the songs, with their carelessly assembled lyrics, would sit far more comfortably in the soundtrack of some young, upwardly-mobile sitcom.

☐ JOHN SCOFIELD
Groove Elation
Blue Note CDP8-32801★★★

JOHN SCOFIELD'S down-home funk is the real thing, hot and sweaty when necessary, yet executed with intelligence and a quiet authority. This, you sense, is the music that his old boss Miles Davis should have been making in those final years when he was vainly chasing after Michael Jackson's sequinned coat-tails.

Larry Goldings's pugnacious electric organ once again acts as sheet anchor for the guitarist's quartet. The principal advance on last year's first-rate release, *Hand Jive*, lies in the understated writing for Steve Turre's trombone and the tuba and baritone saxophone of Howard Johnson. Scofield could easily have thrown together a string of splashy brass lines; the muted colours he sketches form an even more potent contrast to his own, ever more forceful playing.

Idris Muhammad's sly shuffle on the drums gives the group all the momentum of a Crescent City marching band.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ TORI AMOS
Boys For Pele
eastwest 7567-82862★

A BLEAK, craggy monument to the emotional turbulence in Tori Amos's life, *Boys for Pele* redefines the concept of the "difficult" third album.

Conceived during the break-up of her eight-year relationship (romantic and professional) with producer Eric Rosse, it was mostly written during the singer's last tour. "I've dragged my boyfriend's balls halfway across Europe," she declared on a recent British television chat show, an experience which sounds about as much fun for him as listening to this album is likely to prove for the rest of us.

Less than a third of the 18 tracks accommodate a full rhythm section, and the austere arrangements are dominated by Amos's alternately thunderous and tinkling piano parts and heavily mannered singing. A courtly harpsichord is featured on several songs, along with occasional touches of strings, harmonium, bagpipes, church bells and a couple of cameo performances by the Black Dyke Mills (brass) Band. But despite these odd dashes of instrumental colour, the album's pulse remains stiff and ungainly, its tone charmless and cheerless throughout.

While rarely making much sense, Amos's lyrics sometimes resonate with dark sexual connotations, as on *Blood Roses* and *Professional Widow* (a song apparently about Courtney Love). But more often the words simply spill out like seeds scattered in the wind, their meaning buried among the haphazard nonsense-phrases which result ("I need some voodoo on these prunes"; "Congratulate you said you had a double tongue balancing cake and bread").

Amos: primal warbling

Conventional verse-chorus structures and tunes are largely abandoned in favour of convoluted, open-ended pieces, enabling Amos to give full rein to her extended bouts of primal warbling. It might work as therapy or revenge, but why take it out on us?

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ BRANDY
Sittin' Up In My Room
Arista 74321 344012★★

THE NEW Whitney Houston film, *Waiting to Exhale*, finally goes on general release in Britain next week, and to make sure we do not forget about it, a string of singles from the equally successful soundtrack have been slated for the coming weeks. Look out for songs by Mary J. Blige and Houston with CeCe Winans next month, but first it is the turn of the 16-year-old soul singer and actress Brand Norwood, or Brandy.

Sittin' Up In My Room is a quietly smouldering slice of swingbeat-funk performed with a firm, sensual touch. A bundle of unrequited passion, Brandy is sitting in her room thinking about the object of her desire. "I pray that you'll invest in my happiness/All it takes is just one simple call from you," she sings in a deep, velvety voice that would have most men fumbling for their key-pads there and then.

Written by Kenny "Babyface" Edmunds, as is most of the soundtrack, it lacks any real passion, but has his familiar stamp of quality and, indeed, the mark of another big hit about it.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

NEW ON VIDEO: Bold knights in Camelot, warm nights with Monica Vitti, and sleepless nights with baby

■ FIRST KNIGHT
Columbia Tri-Star, 12, 1995

YOU CAN put Richard Gere in a suit of armour and give him Guinevere to woo, but if you do nothing to tame his cocky grin or American accent, he is not going to be a convincing Lancelot. Julia Ormond makes a reasonable Guinevere, a principled lady on the verge of marriage to the noble King Arthur, a part Sean Connery takes with rather too much ease. The battle scenes look impressive, but much good work is undone by William Nicholson's plodding script. In a word, a mess. Available to rent.

■ JACK & SARAH
PolyGram, 15, 1995

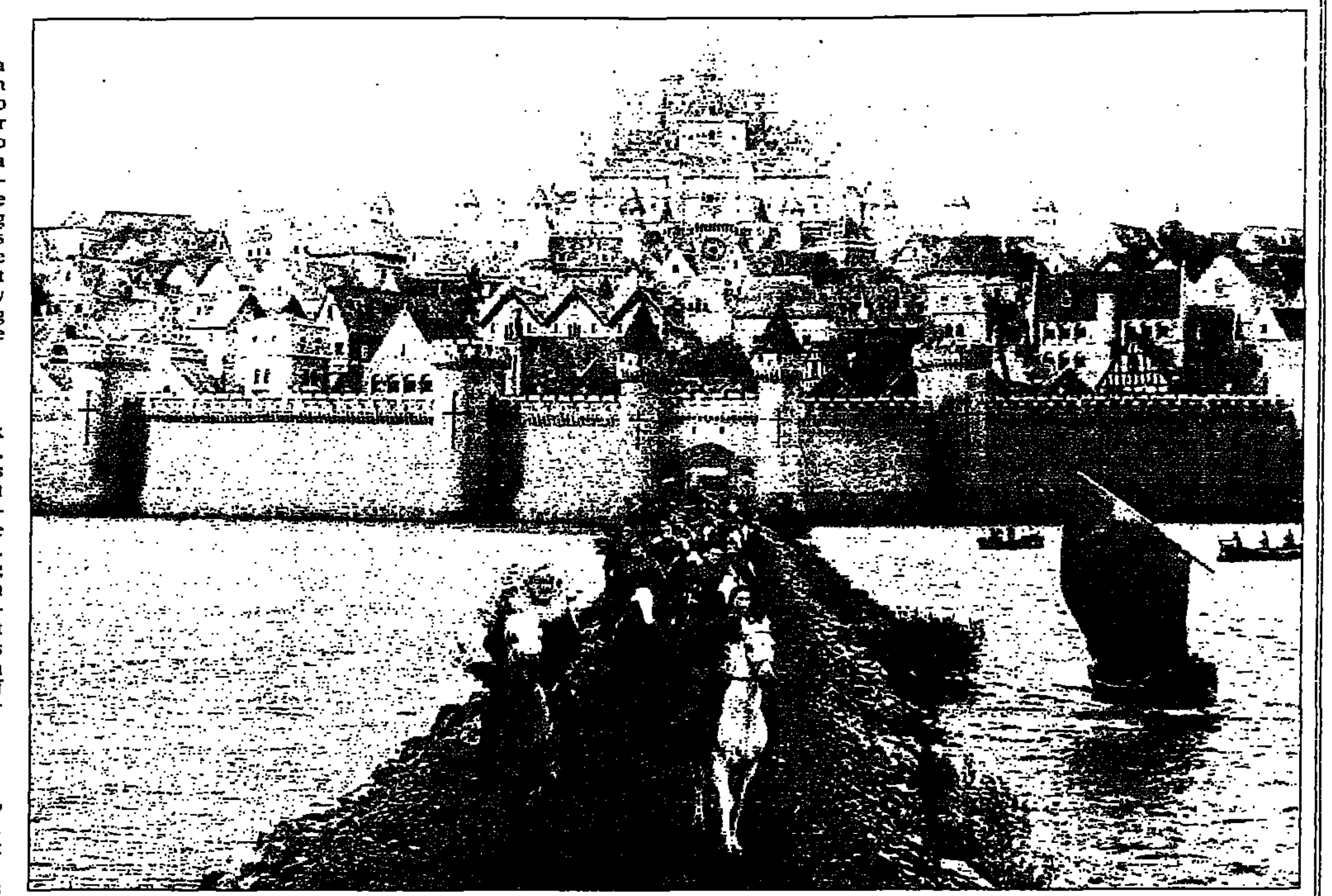
SARAH is a gurgling baby. Jack (Richard E. Grant) is the father, struggling with nappies after his wife dies in labour. And don't forget Amy (Samantha Mathis), the good-hearted American who comes to be Sarah's nanny and Jack's new love. Then there are the in-laws, hovering with well-meant advice, and Ian McKellen, a vagrant turned manservant who flits through the script like a gadfly. Tim Sullivan's film is good for an easy laugh and a warm glow, but it lacks the sharpness of the best British comedies, past or present. A rental release.

■ EAST LA
Entertainment, 15, 1995

RELEASED in cinemas as *My Family*, Gregory Nava's film gets a new, tougher-sounding title. But it remains the same sweet-toothed family saga, following the progress of Mexican immigrants over three decades. They get born, get married, get shot and go to jail. The dusky colours are pleasing, and some performances briefly touch the heart, but the film is too long and too ready to fall into melodrama. With Jimmy Smits, Esai Morales and Edward James Olmos. To rent.

■ L'ECLISSE
Art House, PG, 1962

THE SPATE of Antonioni video releases continues with the final film in his trilogy exploring alienation in modern society. As before, Monica Vitti is his muse, a young Roman woman who begins a passionate affair with a cocky stockbroker (Alain Delon) after ending another with a cold intellectual (Francisco Rabal). Happiness proves elusive; so does the plot, which disappears under the weight of interior decorations, building sites and all the other images which the director crafts so beautifully. A film for which some patience is needed.



King and country: Sean Connery as King Arthur leads the procession of knights from Camelot in the lavish but messy *First Knight*

■ INNOCENT LIES
PolyGram, 18, 1995

DIRECTOR Patrick Dewolf, script partner of *Hairdresser's Husband* creator Patrice Leconte, cloaks a tale of obsession and murder in fancy angles, period clothes (the time is 1938) and grey coastal scenery. But the film, available to rent, is little more than a frigid stylistic exercise, and the cast — Stephen Dorff, Gabrielle Anwar, Joanna Lumley, Adrian Dunbar — can do little to warm it up.

■ POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA
Dangerous to Know, 18, 1994

STEVE McLEAN, groomed in British pop promos and television, piles on the glossy style for this eye-grabbing fantasia about a gay American outsider, inspired by the life and writings of the artist and Aids activist David Wojnarowicz. McLean skates over Wojnarowicz's anger at the world and his fate, but his mobile camera certainly excels at catching beautiful surfaces, from desert rocks and 1950s furniture to golden male bodies.

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Tel 01223 332900
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Admission £1 adults, 50p students and senior citizens, children free
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How to keep up with the Howards

Historic reproductions from some of Britain's best houses

Once, if you wanted to own something that looked as if it came from a stately home, you either had to inherit it or bid at auction when one of the great collections was scattered by tragedy or taxation. A mail-order catalogue has changed all that.

The catalogue, Ancestral Collections, devised by Lady Victoria Leatham and her business partner Elizabeth Nicholl, offers reproductions of antique furniture and *objets* from five of Britain's best known historic houses. In most cases, the items have been recreated using the original techniques.

Lady Victoria is curator of Burghley House, Lincolnshire, one of the houses in the catalogue, and a general appraiser for Sotheby's and BBC1's *Antiques Roadshow*, and has a passion for Japanese ceramics and delftware. She had been mulling over the idea for Ancestral Collections for some time before teaming up with Ms Nicholl and creating the first catalogue, released late last year.

The catalogue is stuffed with information about the houses, and a small percentage of the price of each purchase goes towards their upkeep. Each year's catalogue will be different. "This is a collecting opportunity as much as a purchasing one," Lady Victoria says.

Blair Castle, in Strathclyde, is the home of the Atholl Highlanders, Britain's only private army — relic of the clan system when each chieftain raised an army at the king's call — and maintained by the 10th Duke of Atholl. Representing the castle in the Ancestral Collections catalogue is a hand-cut glass beaker (£144), copied from a pair in the castle's white drawing room. It is large enough to use as an ice bucket and is decorated with 22-carat gold chinoiserie.

Lady Victoria's domain, Burghley House, has a park landscaped by Capability Brown. The house was built in the late 16th century by one of the great Elizabethans, William Cecil, a Lord Mayor of London and High Treasurer to Elizabeth I. The catalogue offers a copy of a Delft charger (£380) from an original in Burghley House's huge collection. Deborah Sears, an Oxford artist, takes two days to hand-paint each plate with the fine blue scene of Burghley House as it appeared in 1745. "Deborah is one of the few people doing real Delft any more," Lady Victoria says.

Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, built in the early 18th century, is still the home of the Howard family. It was the setting for the television series *Brideshead Revisited* and *The Buccaneers* and is represented in the catalogue by a solid hardwood, hand-carved Georgian stool (£390), the most expensive item on offer, and a replica of one of a set of eight from the 1790s. Also representative of the castle is a resin *copy of a crested artillery shell* case-carrier from the Boer War, adapted for use as a lavatory brush holder (£67, brush included), which is, Lady Victoria says, "going like a bomb".

The land at Elton Hall, Peterborough, has been in the Proby family since 1595, and the house since 1660. Its extensive private library includes Henry VIII's prayer book, inscribed by the king and two of his wives.

The catalogue's offering is an elaborate silver and gold-leaf salt container and spoon in the shape of a Paris street vendor holding a basket (£155), copied from a piece created for Elton Hall in the 19th century.

One of the few 20th century pieces is a hand-worked, fringed tapestry cushion (£85) from a William Morris design of irises, primroses and strawberries.

Although Knebworth house, Hertfordshire, was built in 1490 to a simple design, its most striking feature is the 19th-century addition of turrets, domes, gargoyles and a Gothic interior, the inspiration of the Victorian novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton.

The house is represented in the catalogue by a pair of plaster bookends (£65) depicting chubby little girls. The originals were chosen for Knebworth's nursery by Sir Edward Lutyens at the turn of the century.

"In choosing the five houses, I shamelessly went to people I knew well," Lady Victoria says. But selecting the 30 pieces for the catalogue was not easy. "Of course, certain objects looked right in the grand houses, but unsuitable for a 12ft x 15ft sitting room."

Finding the right people to recreate the objects was more difficult still. "We made about 600 telephone calls," Lady Victoria says. "Often people would say, 'No, we can't do that, but I know someone who can', and we'd find another supplier. Lots of our suppliers are really one-man bands."

Roger Horchow, known in America for his stylish, and pricey, gift and clothing catalogues, advised on the collection. "He is sort of a guru as far as I'm concerned," Lady Victoria says. "He gave us three pieces of very good advice. One, start small. Two, do it all yourself or you will never learn how the business runs. Three, don't go for the big, glamorous, easy mailing lists — go for people who have earned their own money."

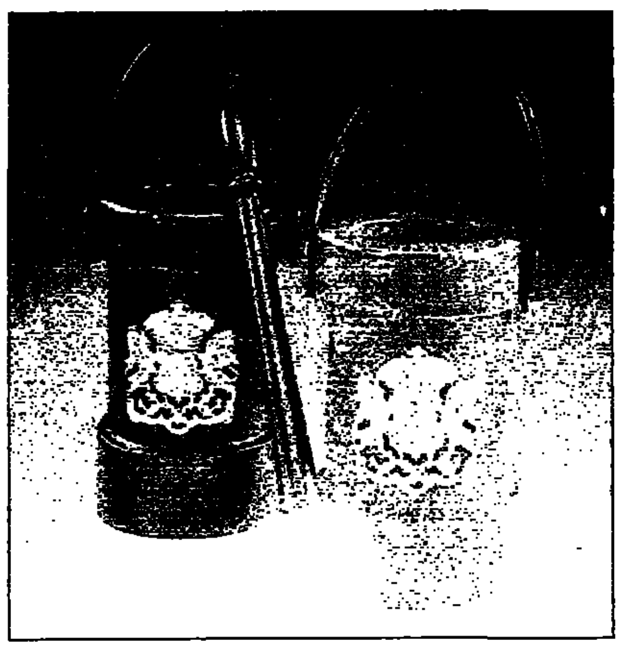
The two partners hope to start a retail outlet when the capital is available and, in the future, Ancestral Collections may offer historic tours. Preparation is under way for the next catalogue selection.

NANCY PATTON WOOD

● *For a free copy of the Ancestral Collections catalogue, write to Ancestral Collections, The Old Corn Store, Burghley Courtyard, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY (01780 482522, or fax 01780 65305).*

Left: Burghley Charger (15½in diameter, £380), after a tin-glazed delftware dish of 1745 at Burghley House. By Deborah Sears

Above: reproduction of an ornate, Napoleonic era candlestick, with a classical maiden in bronzed resin standing on a marbled plinth, from Castle Howard (£105 each, £199 per pair)



Left: these resin reproductions of Boer War artillery shell-case carriers in Castle Howard, serve as lavatory brush holders (£67 each, including brush)

This "Georgian" footstool, with scooped seat, measuring 2ft 6in by 14in, is a replica of one of a set of eight at Castle Howard in Yorkshire. Price £390

Silver and gilt model of a Paris street vendor (£185) featured at Elton Hall. Made by the Barnard workshops, it is about 6in high by 3in in diameter

HELP TO LAUNCH A NEW ROSE FOR THE RNIB

Name the rose

Times readers have a unique opportunity to name a new rose. If your suggestion is chosen, you will be given an exclusive invitation to be a guest at the preview day of the Chelsea Flower Show in May, 1997.

The Times, in association with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), invites you to think of an appropriate name for the rose (pictured above). This medal winning rose has been specially selected for the charity because it is one of the finest scented hybrid teas from rose breeders Harkness Roses of Hitchin, Herts.

It produces a profusion of creamy, honey-coloured blooms with light cerise edging. The rose has superb foliage as well as excellent resistance to disease and will grow in almost any soil.

The RNIB is the leading charity working with and for blind and partially sighted people in the UK. It provides more than 60 services for people of all ages to help them lead independent lives, counteracting the disabling effects of blindness.

The winner of our name the rose competition and a guest will stay in London overnight before the Chelsea Flower Show next year, when the new rose will be launched. In addition, there are 20 runners-up prizes of the RNIB rose bush.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply read the above information and, based on that, write your suggested name for the rose on a postcard, together with your own name, address and daytime telephone number. Post it to:

Alex Clark, *The Times*/RNIB Rose Competition, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

All entries must be received by Friday, March 22, 1996. The first prize winner will be determined by a judging panel of RNIB and Harkness Roses representatives. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

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RNIB challenging blindness

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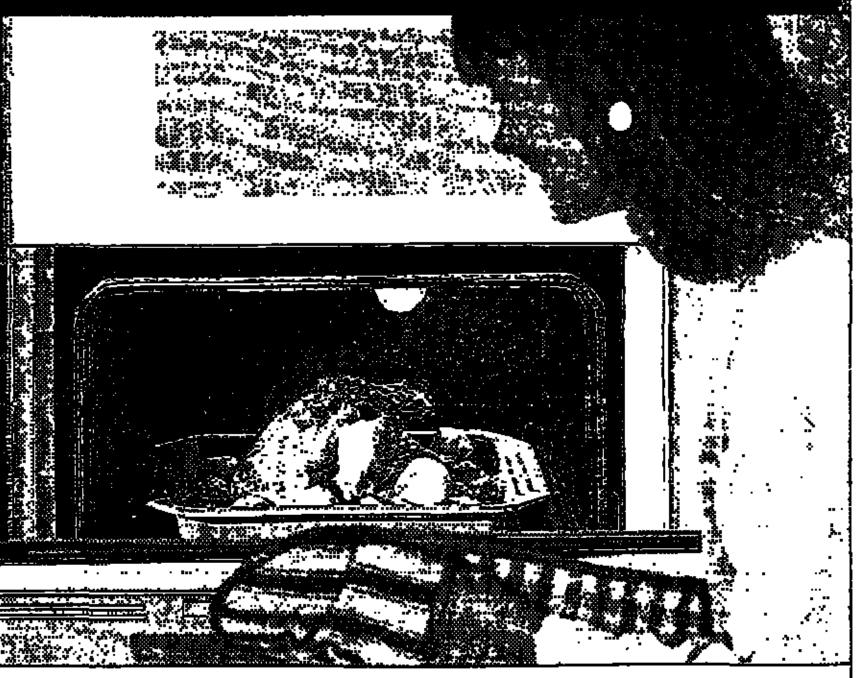
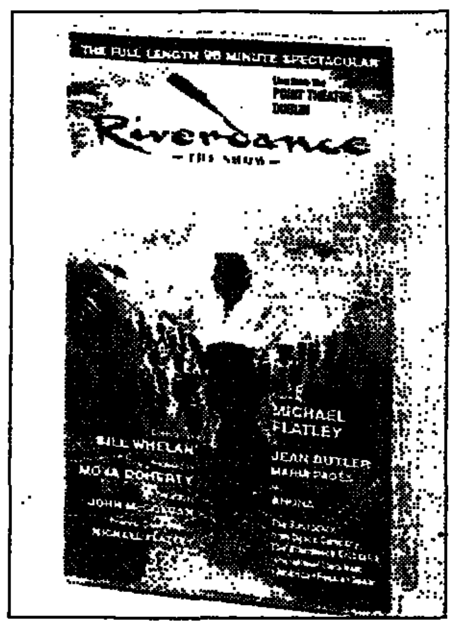


SPECIAL OFFER FROM MEDIA RESPONSE

Riverdance

The show on video



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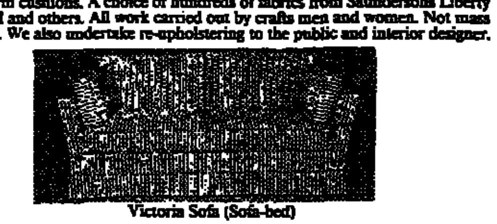

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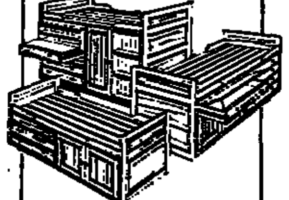

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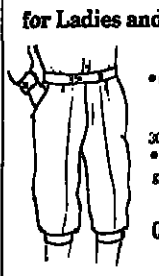

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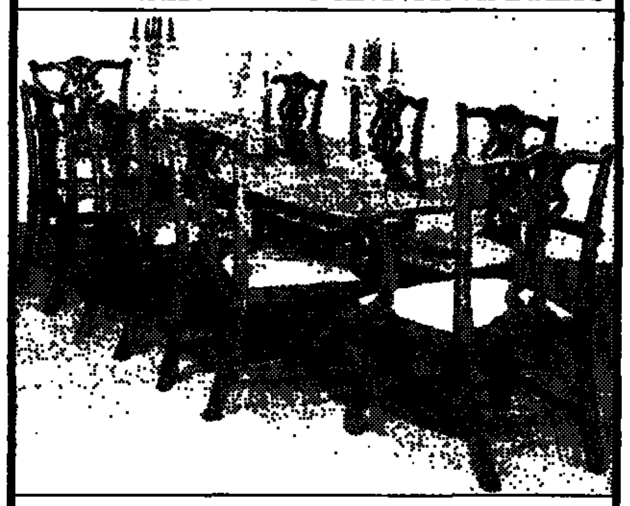

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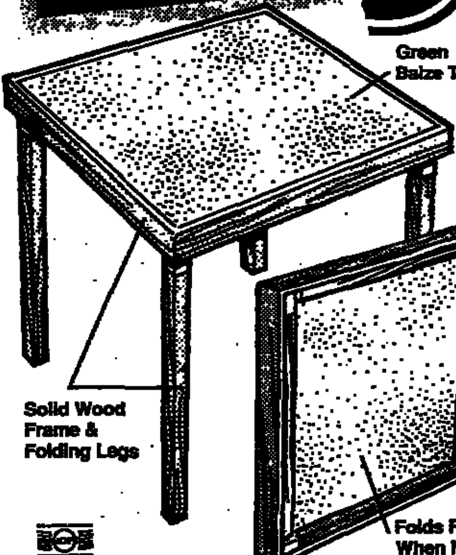
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By Michael Simpson

Most of us invest in a personal computer to make our lives easier. To help with finances and correspondence perhaps. *It may be an educational* tool for children or simply provide amusement with fun games and puzzles. But now there is another far more rewarding way to use your home computer.

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"Make money with your Home Computer" is a new step by step, working manual that answers all these questions... and a lot more besides.

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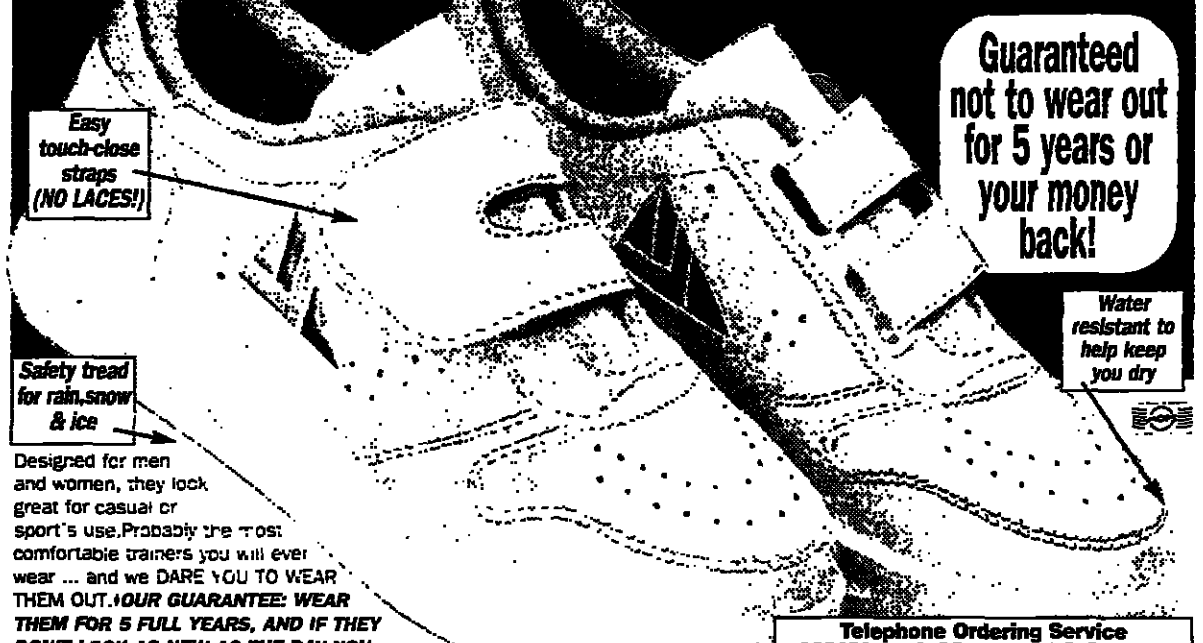
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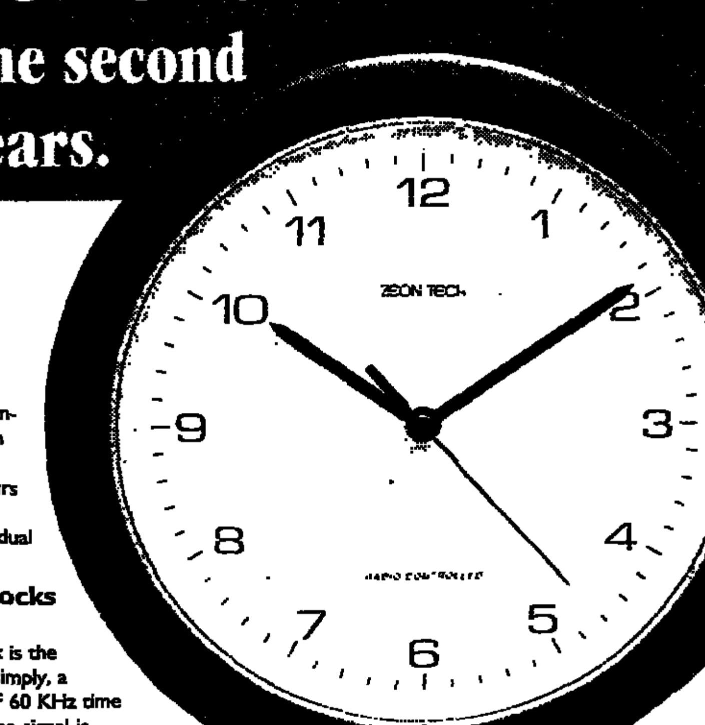

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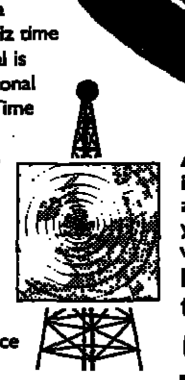

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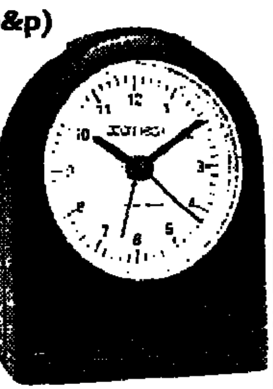

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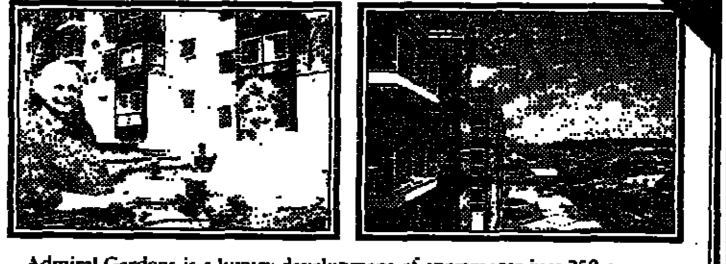

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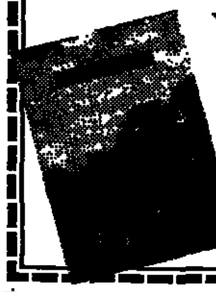

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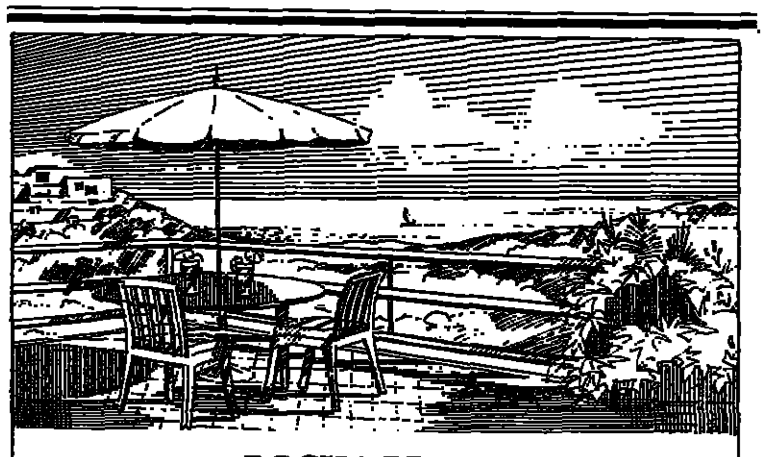

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مكزامن الأمل

Families rescue heartbreak hotels

Rachel Kelly reports on a new life for redundant country house hotels

When Lucy and Jeremy Thompson and their two children moved into Milton Manor, in the village of Milton Abbas, Dorset, nearly three years ago, they had a kitchen for each member of the family.

They also found 1,000 plastic shower caps, an old AA sign with two stars, 40 royal-wedding flags, 20 coffee jugs and hundreds of "Do not enter" signs. The house had *previously been a hotel.*

The Thompsons bought it from the receivers for £270,000. Four years earlier it had been advertised for £650,000, but there were no takers. In the interim, it had been repeatedly broken into and vandalised.

Mrs Thompson says: "We were looking for a four or five-bedroom house but couldn't find anything we liked. Then my husband saw this horrendous pile. What family of four wants wants a 17-bedroom house? But he persuaded me to look at it, and I just sat in the car and laughed."

The house was grey and depressing, Mrs Thompson says. "It had been empty for years after the hotel went bankrupt, and was covered in mould, with water pouring in through the roof. The six-acre garden was overgrown. The bank which had repossessed the property had boarded up the broken doors and windows."

For six weeks, the family lived in the "dinky and smelly coach house".

"Every morning I woke up and hoped it was all just a bad a dream," Mrs Thompson says. "Then I realised, 'Oh, my God, it's real'."

Gradually, the house has been refurbished. The £50,000 cost includes reroofing, rewiring and replumbing. Three *years later, the family have* a well-proportioned house with ten bedrooms.

The space has been gobbled up: a wood store here, a study there, and one room kept free for Mrs Thompson's photography. The spare kitchens have become a garage.

Part of the house has been let. The Thompsons had not planned to rent out any part of the house until it was refurbished, but a passing couple said they would take some rooms as they were. They now occupy a flat with a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and two double bedrooms.

The only reminder of the house's previous existence is that former guests still turn up for tea.

This is a success story. The family bought the house cheaply because they sought a home at the time of a depressed hotels market. Local agents say that a similar property in the residential market could have cost double (excluding conversion costs).

Can other people repeat this success? Does it still make sense to buy and convert a former country house hotel?

The main problem is finding such a property. When the Thompsons bought, country house hotels were one of the worst victims of the recession, but agents Knight Frank reports that 1995 showed signs of recovery. "Companies such as Stakis, Arcadian, Principal and *Paramount Hotels* have spent about £566 million on hotel acquisitions in the past 12 months," says Alistair Bell, Knight Frank's partner in hotels.

The recovery in the market means that only those country house hotels which failed utterly are available for conversion to country houses. "In the main, these will be hotels which do not have excellent road communications in a popular area close to big towns," says Derek Gammage, also of Knight Frank.

These characteristics could be exactly the ones which appeal to the private buyer. In a housing market short of attractive, correctly priced country *properties, converting* a hotel could be an answer — if planning permission is granted and conversion expenses add up.

Where then, are these hidden potential gems?

Christie & Co is the largest dealer in hotels, while estate agents Knight Frank, Savills, and Brodie's in Edinburgh also sell hotels.

Patrick Ryan, Christie's managing director, has selected several properties that might be suitable for conversion.

One is only for the brave. Chilston Park is outside Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent. The fine, mainly 17th-century, Grade I listed building was converted into a hotel ten years ago. One drawback is *its £2 million price tag.* Others are the 38 bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms, the five dining rooms, a drawing room, and billiard room.

More manageable, perhaps, is Priory Court Hotel, near Pevensey, East Sussex. The 17th-century building has nine bedrooms and seven bathrooms, is in two acres and for sale at £495,000.

Another possibility is Donavourd House Hotel, in six acres by Pitlochry in Perthshire. It has seven bedrooms and five bathrooms and is for sale for £310,000.

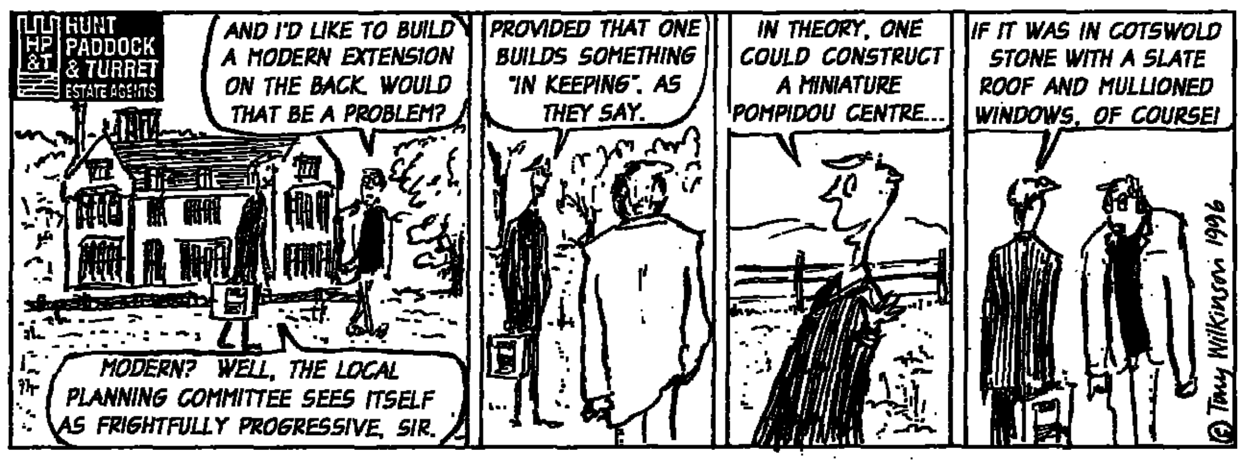
Of course, the really adventurous could consider running *the hotel themselves, or let out* rooms. The Hayward family used to stay in the ten-bedroom, eight-bathroom Coulsworthy House Hotel in six acres near Barnstaple, Devon. Several years later, they saw it had gone out of business and was for sale. *They bought it for* £190,000, and spent about £10,000 on the conversion, with the idea of using it as a holiday home.

They have kept part of the house for themselves, but now let the rest out to families as holiday rentals, through Helpful Holidays. The rates vary from £621 a weekend for 15 people in low season to £1,145 a weekend in high season. A cottage in the grounds can be *rented separately or as part of* the package.

● *Christie & Co (0171-486 4231); Knight Frank (0171-629 8171). Bookings at Coulsworthy House Hotel can be made through Helpful Holidays (01647 433593).*

TIM CUFF

Rachel Hayward's new home is a former ten-bedroom hotel near Barnstaple, Devon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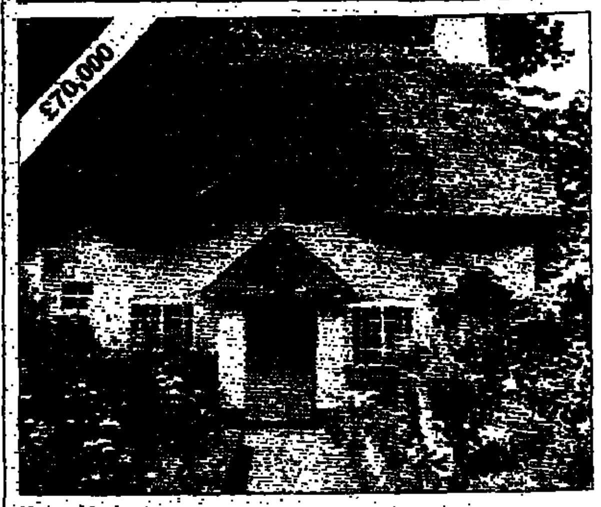
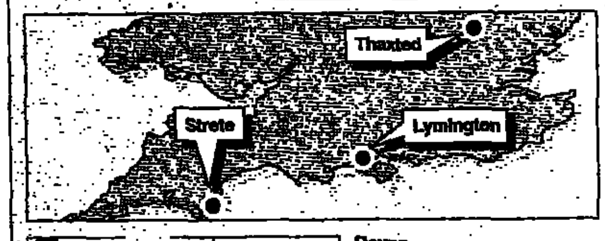
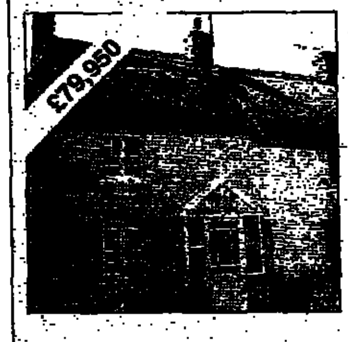


Hampshire
Rambler Cottage, Fox Pond Lane, Lymington. Thatched cottage in well-stocked garden. Bedroom, shower room, sitting/dining room (with inglenook fireplace) and kitchen. Workshop and summerhouse. About £70,000 (GA Town and Country, 01590 675025).

Essex
46, Newbiggen Street, Thaxted. Grade II listed period town house, with rear garden, in a picturesque village. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, large kitchen. Former garage/office. About £82,500 (Bruce Munro, 01799 522626).





Devon
Thatch Cottage, Strete, near Dartmouth. Grade II listed, partly thatched end-of-terrace cottage, with garden and views over Start Bay. Two double bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/dining room. About £79,950 (Merchant Petit, 01548 857588).

CHERYL TAYLOR

SHEFFIELD TERRACE, W8
A beautifully presented south facing house with a delightful conservatory and grand first floor drawing rm. 5/6 beds, 3 baths, shower rm, 3 receps, study/bed 6, kitchen, utility rm, clkrm, garden.
Freehold £945,000
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

MORGANS WALK, SW11
In a small block forming part of a popular development set in gardens by Battersea Bridge, a delightful first floor flat. 3 bedrooms, bath, shower room, reception, kitchen, balcony, garage.
Lease to 2201 £175,000
BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174

PRIMROSE HILL, NW1
On the banks of the Regents Canal, a superb, Victorian semi-detached house requiring works with a 12.19m (40ft) garden and canal mooring. 4 beds, bath, clkrm, shwr room, 2 receps, kit/dining area, s/c flat with bed, bath, reception & kitchen.
Freehold £650,000
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556

RIVERMEAD COURT, SW6
On the fifth floor of a popular block, an exceptionally spacious flat with superb views over the River. 3 beds, 2 baths, clkrm, recep/dining hall, drawing rm, kit, lift, 24hr porterage, 2 parking spaces, communal gardens.
Lease to 2105 £395,000
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

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WILTSHIRE – Wardour Castle, Tisbury To let unfurnished
Apartments of 2 and 4 bedrooms, in an historic house set in 50 acres in an idyllic rural situation. Sympathetically restored, the apartments are of the highest quality ranging from 2500 to 4000 sq ft, with classical minimalist interiors, English oak floors, marble bathrooms, Czech & Speake fittings, German kitchen appliances and comprehensive security systems. The grounds are being restored to the original designs of Woods and Capability Brown.
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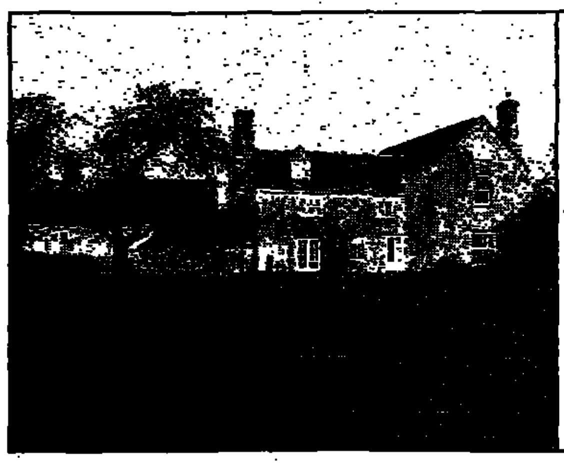
MIDDLESEX - Harrow-on-the-Hill - Price Guide: £695,000
Full of architectural interest, a distinctive Victorian listed house, with a superb indoor swimming pool complex and attractive south west facing garden. 7 beds, 3 baths, shower rm, dressing rm, recep hall, 4 receps, kitchen, utility rm, clkrm, cellarage, garaging.
HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106

SOUTH NORTHANTS Evenley
A stone farmhouse on the edge of the village. 7 beds, bath, shower rm, 3 attic rms, 4 receps, kitchen, b'fast rm. Former stables now garden store, workshop & garage. Gardens of about 0.27 ha (0.66 acres).
Price Guide: £345,000
OXFORD: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE Milford on Sea
An individual family house with sheltered, mature gardens of about 0.3 ha (0.75 acre). 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kitchen/utility rm, 2 clkrms, conservatory, double garage, swimming pool.
JSA: Robert Brown & Co 01590 644933
Price Guide: £225,000
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233



WILTSHIRE · Oaksey
In a convenient rural location, a charming Cotswold stone house. 7 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, kitchen, domestic offices, cellar. Cotswold stone barn, tennis court, garden, paddocks & spinney. About 0.99 ha (2.45 acres).
Offers invited in excess of £425,000
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HANTS/WILTS BORDERS Cholderton
A superb development of five individual detached family houses constructed by Amey Homes. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, 3/4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, double garage, gardens.
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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

A BUSY attractive Irish lady, Co. Exec., with homes in Ireland and England seeks sincere, solvent, over 40, gentleman for friendship, perhaps romance. Please Reply to Box No 3022.

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AMERICANS SEEK friendship, romance and marriage with *British ladies & gentlemen!* All ages! English Rose/English Connection, Romance House, 20 Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1LU. Tel: 01843 863322 (24 hrs). As featured on National Television.

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CONNEXIONS *is the friendship* club that puts single Christians in touch with each other. Don't delay ring 0181 9064467 today

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NEXUS *Unattached? If Christmas wasn't all you hoped it would be there's time to change* your lifestyle before Easter (holidays, walks, theatre trips *and much much more*). Ring for the brochure. (012374) 71704, (0181) 367 6328, (0113) 2445186, (01869) 338801, (0141) 221 1090, (01202) *761006*, (01286) *831599* or (0121) 472 1968. We're not a dating service or marriage bureau.

PARTY PARTY Knightsbridge. *Sunday* 28th Jan. Music. Dancing. Chinese Buffet. Wine. Super Atmosphere, nice crowd:- 0171 289 0220

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WEEKEND breaks *for* single people - includes dining and dancing. Contact Circuit UK - WA. Tel/Fax: 01244 316115: calls taken until 9pm.

LADIES

ABRACADABRA attractive 38-55 young. N/S, successful sophisticated, GSOH, romantic, sporty man sought for magical relationship. I am young mid 40's bubbly brunette with the above qualities and many more. Surrey based. Photo appreciated. No wimps please! Reply to *Box No 2836*

LADIES

ADJUSTED, positive, *divorced* woman, youful 52, attractive, independent. Seeks kind, educated, humorous, over 5'10", fit, solvent, SW London man to share cinema, books, walks, music. Photo plse to Box 3028

ADVENTUROUS man (45-60), intelligent, solvent with sparkle yet capable of quiet intimate *moments* wanted by charming, warm, humorous, attractive professional curvaceous blonde, 5'5". Dorset based. Please reply with photo to Box No 2913

AFFECTIONATE, attractive & discerning lady, 38, well-educated & unpretentious seeks similar, solvent, n/s, considerate man, 36-45, for long-term *relationship*. Home counties. Please Reply to Box No 2980

ALLURING, slim, prof blonde, 36, divorcee, GSPH, WLTM genuine, intelligent, prosperous *London based unattached* 40+ man to share the good things in life. Photo plse Box No 2953

ALONE & Bored? Professional, fit, smart female, 39, Blonde, 5ft 3 ins. Interests: sports, travel, films, pubs. Oxford area. WLTM male 36-46 for romance. Please Reply to Box No 2982

ARCANE widow, good looking, terribly nice, well dressed, well educated, well heeled/healed, liberal and compassionate WLTM loyal, sensitive, N/S, doctor (50-60) who enjoys the arts, music, poetry & the countryside. Reply with photo Box No 2912

ARE YOU, charismatic, self confident with GSOH, solvent, successful, loving and caring like me? I'm a London based smoker of Continental origin, aged 47. Cold we enhance our good life by trying to forge a permanent relationship? Only honest replies please.! Photo? ALA. Box No 2934

ARTIST *of the successful kind* seeks loving *friendship* with an intellectual, sophisticated male. I am in my early 40's, happily divorced and looking good! Your *wit and spirit* is more important than your age. London/SE. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2902

ATTENTION all Dads raising children solo. Stunning, slim, tall, v. maternal & vivacious lady, WLTM tall prof discerning n/s 40's guy. Herts./Bucks/ London Photo plse Box 3025

ATTRACTIVE accomplished lady. Divorced, n/s late 50's, many interests WLTM considerate, honest gentleman. Public school *background* 58-68 to share mutual TLC and interests for a happy future together. Photo appreciated & returned. Glos & surrounding counties. *Please Reply to Box No* 2891

ATTRACTIVE female mature student (40s) seeks male companion for occasional meetings (or otherwise) London, Cambridge, Harpenden. Please Reply to Box No 3006

ATTRACTIVE Nurse, 63, (Sussex) would accompany elderly *English Gentleman on sunshine* holiday abroad. Please Reply to Box No 2965

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, professional female seeking a tall, professional male 30's. Apply with photo to Box No 2834

ATTRACTIVE intelligent woman, young 60 WLTM tall presentable *musical educated* man N/S. Box No 2972

CAN I tempt you to write an interesting letter? Cambridge *female mid-forties W.L.T.M.* lively, cultured male for friendship. Reply to Box No 3026

CARING attractive blonde lady 49 (much younger looking/ very active) WLTM a thoughtful, charming gentleman for country walks/pubs, nice meals, wine, theatre, weekends, galleries etc. A Businessman who'd appreciate a genuine relationship with someone sensitive. Box No 3023

CURVY yet slim, sensuous *woman would like to meet* tallish intelligent man 40-56, with romance in his soul for an exciting relationship. Needs to be interested in the arts. London/ *SE. Photo please Box No 3004*

DELIGHTFULLY refreshing woman, creative, harmonious, literate, living in Norfolk invites company of warm, friendly cultured man (50-60) with wit & wisdom, to walk & talk, wine & dine, ponder & plan. *Photo* please to Box No 2840

EDUCATED, *discerning but* caring lady, late forties, divorced, enjoys the arts, seeks pleasant, affectionate, interesting man. Bucks/ Beds/ *Northants. Box No 2954*

ELEGANT American svelt 5'5", very attractive, early 40's, educated, solvent, enjoys arts, travel. Seeks serious relationship with slim, tall, N/S, attractive charming professional, 46-53. London, photo please Please Reply to Box No 2765

FAIR, fun, just 50! E. Berks intelligent, more practical than intellectual seeks modern man with trad values. Box 2759

FIRST TIME advertised opportunity in the North West for a 6'-6½" unattached 35-55 yrs male, *to be a friend and soulmate*, seeking to develop a one to one relationship. Sincere, considerate and a positive outlook. A professional, managing time to work and play. Active with varied interests, can relax and communicate, with home and car, looks good in smart clothes and jeans. Enjoys travel, music, good food and wine and is a non smoker *with a healthy body* and mind - and/or is working on it! Above also applies to myself, however, I am 5'9" and *definitely female*. Photos *appreciated/returned*. *Please* Reply to Box No 2916

FIT, comely woman, self employed postgraduate, early 40s, 5'7", few ties. Warm, *kind*, interesting. Seeking taller n/s man, similar attributes, to share varied pursuits central south Lodnon, hugs, holidays, lifelong *wit and subtlety*. Please reply to Box No 2914

GORGEOUS blonde graduate girl mid thirties warm caring optimistic seeks attractive prof successful man 37-45 London. Please Reply to Box No 2970

HAPPY natural blonde, 50, prof., varied interests, seeks companionship *of interesting similar* man. London based. Box 3020

HEAVENLY blonde slender Middle England Rose seeks attention from a charismatic, sensuous, sovent and sensitive soulmate (40-50). Please Reply *with photo* to Box No 2915

INDEPENDENT 5'8", slimish, *educated stylish woman (48)* misses the TLC, warmth, cuddles and shared nuances that a lasting relationship with a tall, interesting, successful and *gentle but worldly man* can bring. N Home Counties. Photo please to Box No 2900

INTELLIGENT, caring, affectionate, attractive (of course!) sociable, mainly Arts inclined lady, living nr Watford. WLTM, similar (59+) man wanting to share interesting, varied, fun lifestyle with loving companion. *Please Reply to Box No 2867*

INTENSELY individual introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today *0171 289 3777.*

IS there a man who believes in life after retirement? Perhaps love, too? I am lively, attractive, creative, + passionate about music, painting, people, France, sunshine... But all is better shared with a kindred spirit. Is there one? Please Reply to Box No 2959

KENT lady going to waste. Attractive, caring, 38, 5'10", blonde, VGSOH, no ties, intelligent, sporty. Loves laughter, tennis, *log fires, chocolate and* adventures. Seeks tall, outgoing, humorous smoker, 40's for fun, friendship and possibly future. Box No 2964

LADIES GALORE early/mid 30's, pub sch, attractive & fun on my February party guest list. A few more nice men: i.e. 35-43, pub sch profs with personality, good looks (& all their hair) would do nicely! If this is you in every detail and you live C/W/SW London to Surrey do call. Patricia 0181 392 9009 w/ends & eves.

LADY attractive, 50's, many interests, plans to retire to France, seeks n/s caring friend. *Please Reply to Box No 3024*

LONDON Welsh (SW3) Wilful, independent 47yrs professional blonde graduate seeks gentleman *of style, status & stamina - do you exist?* Box No 2838

LONELY? Be my Valentine. Lovely, elegant lady with blonde curls, blue eyes and wickedly long legs invites a sincere, successful man 55++ to share romantic, mysterious, sophisticated assignations London, Rome, Paris & beyond. *Please Reply to Box No 2991*

MEN! An offer you can refuse!! Why? write to 1 when 1 phone call introduces you to over 500 attractive, stylish ladies 25-69.– West Mids, Warks, 0121 386 2234.– Worcs, Hereford, Glocs, Avon, *01894 836774*.– Shrops, Staffs, Cheshire, 01962 591941.– Notts, Leics, Derbs, Lincs, 0115 937717. We guarantee you will join!! When you see our members photographs - Elite Introductions - The Leader others follow.

MEN It's simple - one Free call equals 1091 eligible, attractive women, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading, Kent & Sussex 0800 141 141. Open every day.

MEN - We have lots of professional ladies waiting to meet you! London/ H. Counties. 0171 7314506. Elite Intro est 1989

MEN, why call long distance? Ring Mike or Sue at Close Encounters. South West London 01932 783165.

MERRY WIDOW Good looking, terribly nice, well dressed, well educated, well heeled/healed, liberal and compassionate WLTM loyal, sensitive, N/S, doctor (50-60) who enjoys the arts, music & the countryside Reply with photo Box No 2912

ORIENTAL lady, petite & lovely, 30 yrs old, likes music, films, countryside, eating out, seeks professional N/S English man for friendship 35-45 preferred. *Photo appreciated.* Please Reply to Box No 2726

OXFORD - OXFORD - OXFORD. Close Encounters is now *open* for introductions and social *events*. Call *01865* 514140. Open 7 days.

RECIPE take 1 useful 40+ attractive female, add a taste of adventure, some live music, a dash of vulture culture, 1 good movie, sprinkle with liberal conversation and serve with 1 excellent red. Bon appetit! Please Reply to Box No 2995

SEEKING knight in shining armour!, 38/48 articulate, attractive, caring, cultured, GSOH, kind, loyal, prof & romantic. *Me - 40, 5'5"*, slim, dark eyed & dark haired, warm & tactile. Photo plse Box 2975

SERENE Scorpio seeks sensual soulmate living in the southern regions. Are you a professional, humorous male (50-60) ready for the challenge. All photos returned. Reply to Box No 3029

SOPHISTICATED, *tall, slim*, attractive romantic brunette prof., enjoys the arts, sport, travel, good food WLTM kind, successful, cultured, fit prof *business man 40's/50's. Photo* plse. London. Box No 2798

SPORTS CAR with elegant, witty owner, seeks parking space adjacent n/s 45+ male counterpart: wellies Glos/ Worcs border, posh frock in London. Reply to Box No 3012

STRIKING feminine, stylish, Sussex lady, *5'8", 50, sparkling* green eyes/personality, wide interests WLTM tall, thoughtful, caring, professional man (50's/60's). GSOH. Loving *friend/ship/marriage*. *Please* Reply to Box No 2919

STYLISH, attractive, articulate & amusing graduate, 41, seeks Christian man with drive, direction, the Holy Spirit and good sense of humour (36-46). N/S. Cambridgeshire. Please Reply with to Box No 2889

SUNNY personality, slim, sensuous, special, successful WLTM *n/s* male, mid 30's/mid 40's, tall, fit, educated prof with same desires. I'm seeking a serious, sensitive & fun relationship. Let's make it happen. Any nationality, London/ SE. Photo Please to Box No 3014

THE *man of my dreams* has difficulty finding me. I am writing this to help him. Greek, attractive, vivacious, kind, honest, university lecturer 40 something. London/South East. Photo welcome. Box No 2805

TIME for a change? Indep. professional American woman looking for mature, gentleman (50-60) to share adventures *near & far*. Box No 3003

WOMAN with case of Lynch-Bages seeks man with meals to *complement*. Delicious *replies* to Box No 2948

VERY attractive female lawyer *early thirties with model figure & face* would like to meet handsome, professional, single, solvent man 30-40 yrs. Genuine replies only. Please reply to Box No 2968

WANTED A good man by a good woman. 48 yrs dark haired, some say I look like Elizabeth Taylor, WLTM someone to enjoy laughter & life. 1st time advertiser, hopefully the last. Bucks/Berks. Please reply with photo to Box No 2637

WANTED by presentable, amiable *London based* widow an interesting, intelligent, nice man 65+ with cultural and sporting interests for happy sharing. Please Reply to Box No 3027

SLIM feminine, prof, 46 of wit/imagination seeks inspiration of successful, solvent, N/S, prof man 50-60 to enhance already good life. London/ Home Counties. Box 2642

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters *is open Saturday and Sunday*. Call free 0800 141 141.

GENTLEMEN

ABRAND New Man, not boring, not ugly, not fat, not British, 40, seeks a lady. *London/SE.* Please Reply to Box No 2880

ACTIVE, intelligent, cultured, committed happy professional man with lots of friends doesn't like being single. *Are you like-minded*, 28-36 *really special* fun, sparky, and wanting to get the best from life? *Please reply* pref with photo to Box No 2979

A MALE, 46, athletic, reportedly attractive, warm, laid back, Oxbridge, airline pilot, speak several languages, divorced but financially o.k. seeks intelligent, attractive, relaxed, warm, successful female, who wants love, children, and, well that sort of thing, as much as I do. Please Reply to Box No 2929

AMUSING, attractive, cultured, successful, tall man, 40, North London seeks a fun loving younger woman to share the *excitement of a New Year* with. I love all forms of art, cinema, theatre, travel, music, keeping fit, eating out and eating in, nights on the town and week*ends in the country*. I am generous, passionate, romantic and good humoured. I am looking for a woman to spoil and pamper and for friendship and good times now that the nights are becoming shorter and Spring in all its glory will soon be here. If you are a sensual woman who likes candle lit dinners, dancing cheek to cheek and would like to share tender moments with a man who really knows how to please, then write to me with *your telephone number* to Box No 2858

AQUARIAN gentleman Oxfordshire, 60, tall, slim, wise & wonderful seeks similar warmhearted, *affectionate playmate to enjoy life with.* Photo please to Box No 2938

ARTICULATE, good looking, warm, loving, successful, Englishman, 43, ready to shower that special woman with love, and make that ultimate partnership, seeks a stunningly beautiful woman (in my eyes at least). Nationality unimportant but easy, placid nature an asset. Ideally she will have a kind, loving, sincere, earthy personality, up to 30 yrs, 5'6" petite, slim. But who knows! Contact Paul, with plain photo & telno. Mine by return. (No 'girls about town' though, plse.) No. 2877

ARTICULATE TDH. Young 49. *Intelligent. Fun. Outgoing.* Successful. Romantic. Worlds 2nd best Lover. But not in Wilts. Photo please. Box No 2969

ATTRACTIVE, tall, single, professional, 32, Berks, likes cinema, music, sport and dining out. Seeks n/s soulmate (25-35) for friendship, fun and romance. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2966

GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE warm sensual professional *male (40's) (feeling still slightly fragile but out of intensive care)* seeks warm, tactile female (GSOH) (30-50). SE/ London. Photo plse Box 2786

BEAR, handsome, bright & kind male, 38, growls at polished ice in his castle because she isn't here, yet? Reply Box No 2773

BUSINESSMAN 50, very solvent, easy going, kind, generous with integrity WLTM slim, attractive lady N/S London/SE. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 2883

CARING, cultured mid-50's professional man (education, writer), divorced, interested music, all arts, travel, history, outdoors, sun, good food, GSOH. WLTM *similar lady* NE/anywhere. Box No 3017

CARING Romantic & sensitive ! London teacher mid-50's, tall, slim, n/s: seeks 40's lady to explore arts, travel, love, life ! Photo apprec. Box No 2890

CHEMISTRY is everything. Romantic, tall, professional *uncomplicated guy in his 40's* (N/S) would like to meet a warm, sensitive lady for mutual happiness. Box No 2869

CHESHIRE Male, 52 starting a new life alone seeks a female companion. My interests include walking, countryside, reading, history, current affairs. Interested? Box No 2950

CITY lawyer, 43, Jewish, witty, musical, seeks attractive educated lady, preferably 30s. GSOH, must be non-smoker. Photo appreciated. *Please Reply* to Box No 2952

CLASSICAL composer/pianist, fit, solvent, WLTM n.s. partner *musicienne to retire to France.* Please Reply to Box No 2941

DOCTOR, 30, cultured, educated, smutty SOH, seeks attractive vivacious career girl for New Year. London. Photo & phone. Box No 2967

FIRST time advertised. Stunningly attractive, tall, slim 30-*35 yr old, intelligent*, well spoken, sporty female sought by similar (except the stunningly attractive bit!) male with lifestyle guarantee. Photo with reply please *to Box No 3019*

FUN & loving 41 yr old guy, tall, dark and slim, GSOH, non academic but successful, used to some of life's nicer things but happy with my middle class surroundings. A young-at-heart Romantic, also sincere & genuine, likes good food, soft music, meeting people, *fast cars* & motor sport. WLTM a *28/38* slim & attractive special woman, must have a warm nature, be able to give as well as take, put feelings before possessions!! And want to have fun times & tender moments together. North England/Scottish Borders. *Photo plse.* Box No 2887

GENTLEMAN *of warmth*, 46, tall, slim & attractive (of course) with GSOH, varied interests, both intellectual & sporty seeks an affectionate, elegant lady in *30's-40's for romance*. Lives in Herts. Photo please to Box 2922

GOOD-LOOKING, intelligent Man, 32. I'm tall, dark & handsome with a lovely cottage in the Cotswolds, complete with log fire. Seeking an intelligent, honest, attractive & slim lady (20's) to share an otherwise perfect life. Photo Box No.2925

GOOD LOOKING, successful & intelligent guy. GSOH thirties, seeks soulmate for friendship & romance. Reply for full details W. Mids/S West. Box No 2736

HANDSOME stylish, sensual professional, early 40's, slim, affluent, athletic, N/S, GSOH, sincere, honest disposition, enjoys life in the fast lane, quiet evenings, country pursuits, travel, real sports cars, the finer *things in life*. N.West based. Will travel. WLTM sensuous, classy female, late 20's/late 30's with GSOH, to share fun, passion, romance & mutual respect. Photo plse Box 3016

HANDSOME, very successful professional businessman, age 32, slim, fit. Very genuine, loyal personality. South Yorkshire based. *Seeks* attractive, *intelligent* successful lady with charisma and humour. Photo essential. Reply to Box No 2998

IMAGINATIVE artist, sensible and sincere 40's seeks outdoorsy, fit woman, 30's who'd like to join him in creating a warm relationship and raising some children of our own together. *London based, happy* to travel. Box No 2988

INTENSELY individual introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

INTUITIVE, thoughtful man not noisy or brash, 37, 6 ft. WLTM similarly successful prof woman, *possibly to start a family* (with a live in nanny?) Keen on city, countryside, friends, culture, travel, radio 4 and private eye/ Sean Hugh type wit. S. Manchester preferred (London ok) Box No 2926

I WANT to fall in love again. The mating in spring and hurley-burley of summer being over, the autumn beckons invitingly. Having suffered the early season & more, a lady similarly placed is my desire. Box 2956

KINDLY, *prosperous*, humorous Oxon leisured gentleman seeks charming, equally leisured, 50+ motorized lady for theatres, restaurants, visiting, and, particularly, narrowboating. Photo appreciated. Box No 2899

LADIES! An *offer you* can refuse!! Why? write to 1 when 1 phone call introduces you to *over 300 men 25-69.*– *West Mids, Warks, 0121 386 2234.*– Worcs, Hereford, Glocs, Avon, 01594 836774.– Shrops, Staffs, Cheshire, 01982 591941.– Notts, Leics, Derbs, Lincs, 0115 937717 We guarantee you will join!! When you see our members photographs - Elite Introductions - The Leader others *follow.*

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LONDON based 56 year old, slim, fit, 5'6" N/S who enjoys wining, dining, theatre, music, cinema, current events, cruise holidays with VGSH & some sporting interests. WLTM lady similar & other interests to share these in comfort & delights of a warm relationship. Photo appreciated. Box 2993

LOVE yachting, cycling & antiques. Bright tactile dreamer 50 with classic boat, seeks petite non mainstream lady for soulmate & life long cruise. Solent base. *Box No 3015*

MY marvelous Godfather, lovely village near London, young wife sadly died, highly eligible, young 55+, deserves the best PLU n/s girl, probably 30s. Write direct Box No 3021

NORTHWEST Solicitor 33, single, tall, R.C. with Irish roots, seeks tall, slim *lady* who can laugh at *herself*, to share holidays, walking, arts, sport and quality life style with view to settling down to traditional family life. *Reply to Box No 2739*

NO EMOTIONAL Baggage - Tall handsome professional man. *Young looking 40 seeks similar* lady. Like me you probably have your own career but know to make time for others. You are ready for a long-term relationship, with marriage & possibly family, the objective. SW London/Surrey area. Photo appreciated Box No 2931

ONE of the Last of the Romantics. *I seek a sensitive lady around* 40 with an inspirational quality who will illuminate my mature years with her youth and beauty. I offer her my professional success, a stylish Cornish home, a halcyon background of classical music, fine wines, elegant cuisine, winter sunshine and dedicated appreciation of her qualities. Please Reply to Box No 2896

ONE woman man with old fashioned values, enjoying life to the full WLTM a slim lady 30-48 *who still believes in love & marriage*. I am a slim 5' 11" gentleman who enjoys theatre, music, walking, talking, films, TV, dinners in, dinners out, cruises, etc. Connected to the medical profession, and have lots of patient TLC but only for life; not a short time. Would like to hear from anyone in London, Torquay or Midlands. Please reply with Photo to Box No 2860

ORIENTAL girlfriend romantic loving sought by London English professional 41, 6 ft, slim, N/S for long lasting relationship. Reply to Box No 2712

OXBRIDGE man, 50's, retired, sense of humour, artistic interests, seeks passionate, worshipping friendship with suitable goddess, any age. Kent/Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 2908

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PROFESSIONAL businessman, NE based, widower, slim, presentable, manly, caring, considerate, good sense of humour, many interests including golf. *WLTM lady 50-60 to complete* the round with. No 2858

ROMEO seeks his Juliet (or for modernists Curley seeks his *Raquel*). Romeo: late 20s, South Coast, own business, hard working, occasional hedonistic streak, free church background (but no extremist). Enjoys eating out/weekends away/nights in/cinema/ theatre/arts/current affairs/ countryside/etc. Offers loyalty, integrity, intelligence and sense of humour. Juliet: mid twenties to mid thirties, intelligent but not necessarily academic, confident and outward going but not brash, a serious approach to life but a sense of humour too, any denomination/genuine agnostic. Romeo believes (of course) in true romance and seeks an equal partner for mutual support/stimulation and to bring out the best in each other. Please Reply to Box No 2662

SELF-MADE failure, no car, no house, no wife wishes to meet *the lady with everything except* perhaps a handsome partner. 50, 6'2" Christian, n/s with a career, many interests, no ties and a legendary sense of humour. London, Surrey, Hants. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 2945

TALL, slim, handsome divorced Newcastle-Upon-Tyne based professional male early *40's* seeks special elusive lady. Please Reply to Box No 2984

THE GIRL of my dreams is hiding *(from me, I'm 35, fit, good looking* & intelligent. I enjoy people, fun & laughter. If you're attractive & uncomplicated, please send your photo to Box No *2842 Surrey*

TIRED of being alone? Kind, handsome, successful businessman seeks beautiful woman, 26-32 yrs, to enjoy life together. Recent photo ensures reply. London area. Please Reply to Box No 2917

UNQUENCHABLE enthusiasm *for life, Male 38, very fit, slim*, attractive, sporty, fun to be with . Are you a slim, N/S warm & affectionate lady. Curious? Write to me & find out *more. Berkshire. Box No 2928*

VERY attractive "classy" lady. Successful career, slim, athletic *and blonde, 38, with all the* right attributes, seeks balanced, non-smoking man. Age and looks unimportant. All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 3033

VERY successful & good looking 45 yr old with GSOH would love to meet successful & attractive soulmate for one to one. Interested in country life & city lights, music, opera, good food & wine, antiques & travel. Into the good things in life - are you? Photo not essential but very *much appreciated. Box 2740*

YOU are 22-34, slim, pretty & naturally passionate. Innately spontaneous, you seek a genuinely thoughtful & very successful businessman, 42 with style, humour, & superb life style now seeking a permanent relationship.. Humberside. Photo please. Reply to Box No 2886

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

DECENT *gay* man, early 50's living Southeast seeks non scene honourable younger man (mid 30's) *for friendship* but hopefully soulmate. All else will follow. Photo plse Box No 2925

GAY caring, youthful, ret'd schoolmaster, London, seeks man, 18-32, affectionate commitment. Photo pl. No 2986

GAY man, tall, hirsute, non-scene, manly, 50, London seeks caring younger man (18-35) for affectionate commitment. Non Smoker. Reply to Box No 2919

AAAIRLINE executive often in Edinburgh/London, solvent, good looking, early 40's, WLTM slim, attractive lady with GSOH for dinner, conversation, great evenings, travel & country pursuits. Photo ensures reply. Reply to Box No 2627

ADVENTUROUS author, muscular, seeks stylish with attitude. *Please Reply to Box No 2685*

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"A HAPPY New Year" could be yours. London based gentleman, tall, very presentable, comfortable, early 50's widower, wide interests, seeks that very special *lovely* lady for exciting times to spoil and pamper. Als. photos returned. Please Reply to Box No 2569

A Happy New Year - my resolution is to find a beautiful, intelligent and humorous lady (age 45 plus) who, like me, is unattached. N/S and living in London to share dining, romance and travel. *Please* send photograph to Box 2617

A NEW *meaning to life this year.* Optimistic man & dog seek friendship and romance with warm, feminine lady, hopefully slim, attractive, n/s, fortyish, *capable, homeloving* and pref. no ties. Him - outrageously handsome, intelligent, appreciative of cooking skills and rural pursuits. Me - quite similar but 6', slim, *very young* 50, solvent, more responsible but just as much fun. Sincere replies please, recent photo appreciated and exchanged. Box No 2675

ARTICULATE, amusing, presentable London professional, 40, cultured, Jewish (n/o), seeks an attractive, active, interesting entirely uncommitted lady with *GSOH, max 35. Photo & 'phone* essential. Box No 2679

A New Year of love and happiness offered by Public School educated active N/S generous and loving man to 40's lady. Photo. Box No 2863

DOCTOR, romantic, well travelled, WLTM educated & cultured lady 25-35 of any nationality. Box No 2528

ARE you attractively slim, extrovert & unattached. N/S looking for a sincere successful business man who's never replied to one of these before? Nor I. Would you like a happy & romantic relationship with a busy London socialite. Yes? Then pluck up courage, pick up a pen and write to me enclosing recent photo. Age 38-48. Box No 2630

A tactile 49 yr old lawyer who enjoys music, books, dining out, divorced & sometimes Jewish now seeks a lady mid to late 30's who is attractive, affectionate & also looking for fun, sun & laughter. Photo. Box No 2694

CARING chap seeks winter warmer. I'm 49, tall, intelligent, successful and Surrey based. Interests travel, cycling, hill walking and all things civilised. You are intelligent, slim, attractive and fun. For a warm reply, write with photo Box No 2669

DO you come here often? Neither do I.... But I will for that woman in a million. T.D.H., sporty, artistic man 38, with thirst for *life* seeks woman with a spark (and a photo!) Location, age, colour, children? All bring opportunities, not problems. *Please Reply to Box No 2697*

FIRST. hopefully last advert. Tall, dark goodlooking, financially sound prof. loves all types of music, sporty, social animal, *44 yrs. WLTM* attractive, stylish, slim 30/40 yrs, successful, n/s, outgoing personality. NLondon/M1/S. Birmingham. Photo plse. Box No 2605

HANDSOME architect. Born in the Caribbean, grew up in London, 39 years old, 6'2" tall, slender, fair complexion, sophisticated and very health conscious, very warm and kind nature. Have home in Florida and London. Seeks attractive, slender, health conscious and must have sophistication female for a serious relationship. Please send photo. Reply to Box No 2432. Thankyou.

HANDSOME tall single professional, 30. Likes dining out, cinema, pubs, music, travel and playing sports. Seeks intelligent, practical lady (25-35) to share good times & cuddles. London/SE. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2602

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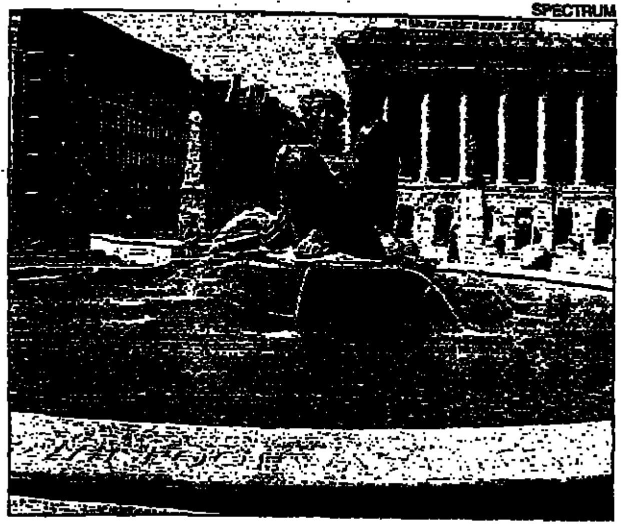
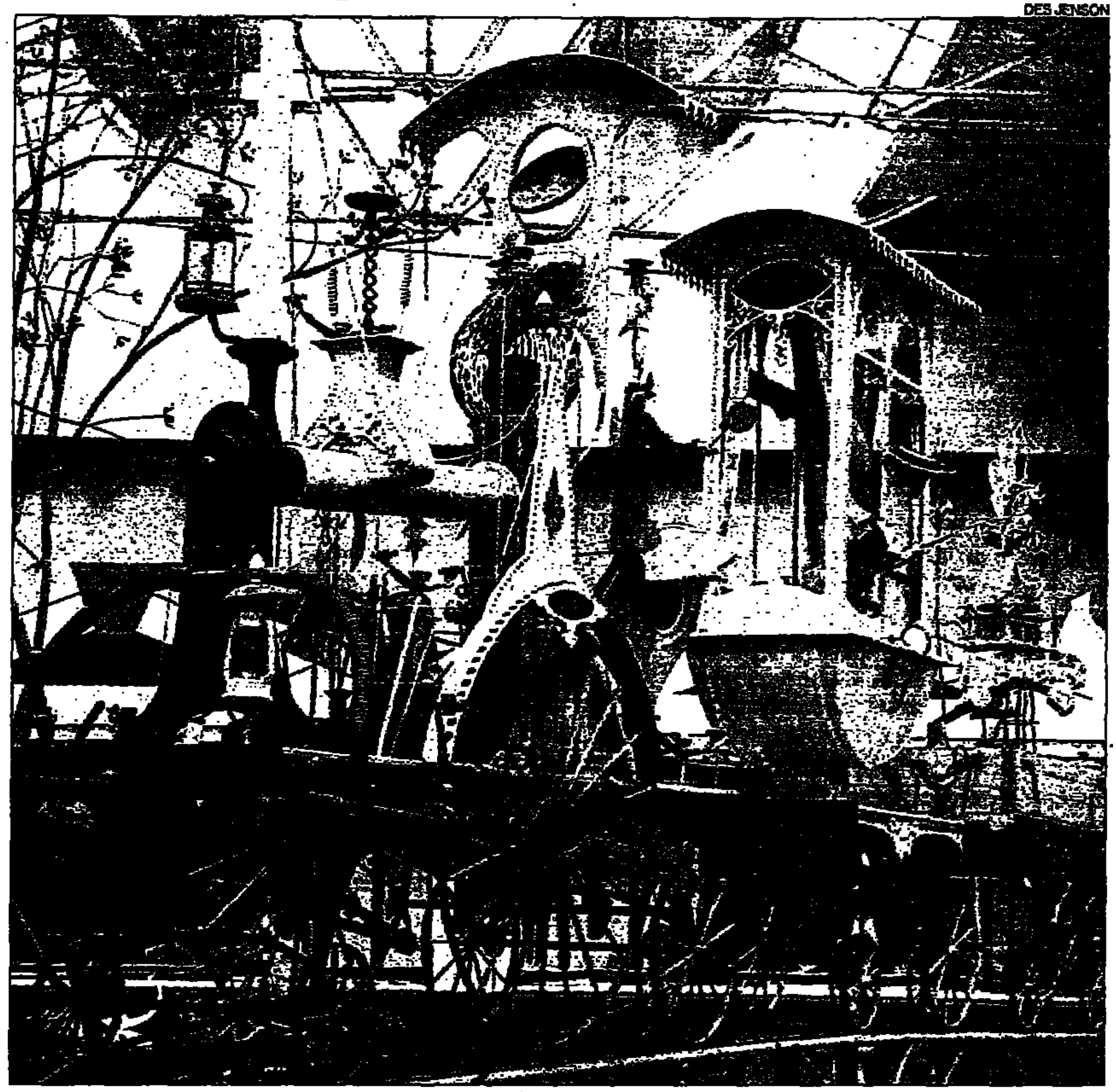
New life is trickling back into our parks and city squares, thanks to the Fountain Society

Urban guerrillas go with the flow


SPECTRUM

The new fountain in Birmingham's Victoria Square


DES JENSON

Making a splash: Rowland Emmett's water feature *A Quiet Afternoon in Cloud Cuckoo Valley*, at Spitalfields

Thelma Seear's self-styled guerrilla army withdrew in triumph to a nearby tapas bar, another prime target reconnoitred. The quest on this particular Sunday was *London's refurbished Spitalfields* market — and the last and biggest of the late Rowland *Emmett's animated* water features, *A Quiet Afternoon in Cloud Cuckoo Valley.*

Ms Seear, the *Fountain* Society's founder, liked what she saw. "This is a fun fountain," she said, *stabbing* vigorously at the button of her camcorder. "In Italian villas, you would encourage guests to sit down and they would get soaked. Wit in the use of water is very important."

Emmett's creations sprang into life on the quarter-hour. A lime green train chugged past. The huge water wheel slopped into overdrive. Ms Seear's people gushed in chorus. "Fountains bring a *joie de vivre*," said Elizabeth Woodhouse, a painter from Surrey.

The Spitalfields fountain fulfils the society's first requirement — it flows. The registered charity tenaciously champions the cause of fountains that do not. "A dry fountain is a dead fountain." Ms Seear says. She founded the society, which has 500 members in Britain and abroad, in 1986 because she considered Britain to be "seriously under-fountained". Magnificent creations of our Victorian forebears seemed to be dying of thirst. "Fountains are the Cinderellas of our heritage," Ms Seear she once *wrote. "Many are neglected*, desolate and not working. Marcus Agrippa built 500 *fountains in Rome in one year*. It will take us longer."

The society has always lacked precise figures with which to underpin its case. "I don't know how many fountains we have. I just know there aren't enough of them," she says. "Other countries are more committed. Let's take Rome, Paris and Barcelona as examples. There, wherever you go, the fountain has a *pride of place*."

Prince Charles agreed to become the society's president. *Buoyed by this royal patronage*, Ms Seear launched a crusade for a national fountain renaissance. The society pledged to lobby for dead fountains to flow again and for new ones to be created. Campaigns would also be waged for the restoration and provision of water features, such as cascades and waterfalls. "Our strength is in guerrilla warfare," says Ms Seear, who once breathed the smoke of battle as a Westminster city councillor. "If you see a fountain not working, take practical steps to get the owner to make it work again."

A survey in 1986 of 42 fountains in London revealed that a third of them had dried up. Similar reports flooded in from around the country. The *Mother and Child Fountain* in Basildon was said to have been dry for a whole summer, while vandals with washing-up *liquid* produced foaming fountains at Dover, Eastbourne and Slough.

Authorities now appear happy to bask in the spray generated by the society. Southampton borrowed the organisation's logo and re-christened itself "The City *With A Sparkle*". *Birmingham* also has spectacular new fountains, most notably the one in *Victoria Square in the heart of* the city. Of the dry fountains singled out, many have since been restored, including those in London's Kensington Gardens. The society, in its tenth anniversary year, has launched a search for Britain's best new fountain — and aims to make the year 2000 the Year of the Fountain.

Meanwhile, on our Sunday in London, we also saw an ingeniously modern 20ft-wide cascade flowing noisily down slopes of granite near Liverpool Street Station. Through water reflected in the windows, the trains seem awash. "It's mag*nificent," shouted Nigel* Holloway, another member of the society. "It reminds one a *little of the Caserta Cascade at* the Royal Palace in Naples." The society organises at least one visit to Europe each year.

Taxis took us to the Geffrye Museum in east London, where members stopped to admire a recently installed fountain in the herb garden. Here, Jill Scholar, a sculptor, pondered the future of fountains in Britain.

"If you want to create a sense of movement and liveliness, in a piece of sculpture, then use the wind. A lot of fountains are boring and invite people to throw their rubbish into them," she says.

Ms Seear recalled her childhood in Halifax and the fountain in People's Park that *inspired her obsession. The* structure, long since derelict, may soon flow again. She also *recalled the society's* 1994 Christmas party in the Grand Buildings in Trafalgar Square. Through its windows, members were horrified to find the fountains boarded up early to save revellers from themselves. "It defeated the whole object of the venue," Ms Seear says. "But we'd invited senior people from the Department of National Heritage, so we were able to lobby straight away." For the 1995 party, the fountains remained uncovered. A watershed, perhaps.

BRIAN PEDLEY

- *The Fountain Society, 16 Gayfere Street, London SW1 (0171-222 6037/2917).*

On guard in the gorse bush

Feather report

STONECHATS have been compared to guardsmen. They are very upright birds, and the males have a black head like a busby. But that is where the comparison stops — because they can never keep still.

They live mainly among gorse bushes and, as they flit between the tall sprays at the top, they constantly flick their wings and flirt their tails. They also call all the time, with a sharp "tack tack" note that sounds like two stones *being knocked together. That* is how they get their name.

The males are very colourful, with a bright orange breast, a broken white collar, and an almost black back in the summer. Lord Grey of Fallodon, in his book *The Charm of Birds*, mentions an outing on which he saw an outstanding trio of colourful birds all sitting near each other — a stonechat, a yellowhammer and a linnet. All three of them are common on gorse heaths.

Stonechats are closely related to robins, and both of them search for food in *the same way — scrutinising* the ground for insects from a perch, and flying *down to pick them up.* But whereas robins generally use a concealed perch, stonechats *sit* conspicuously on those tall gorse sprays.

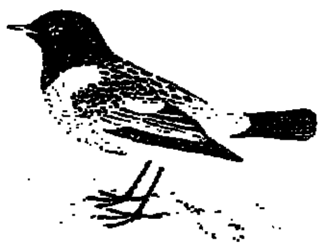
They are expert at choosing just the right ones — high enough to give a wide range of vision, but low enough to drop down on their prey before it escapes, and without wasting energy. They do it by instinct, though for us it would be an elaborate mathematical calculation.

The males usually use a higher perch as their song-post, and also as a taking-off point for their song flights, when they dance up and down in the air. They have a brisk little warble, like a more musical hedge sparrow.

Stonechats are most commonly found on coastal heaths, especially in the west of England, but in winter they roam further afield, and often turn up on waste ground. On allotments they are occasionally seen perching on garden spades, just like a robin.

THESE wandering birds seem to be mostly unpaired individuals, because the pairs *often spend all the year together* in the same territory. Sometimes the same perches in the *mature gorse are used from* generation to generation.

The female has duller, brown plumage, and tends to skulk in the bushes more. She *builds a nest low in the gorse* and usually lays five or six blue eggs with reddish-brown speckles. Even before the first-brood young are fledged, she leaves them in the care of the male, and starts building a new nest for the next brood. A stonechat's work, it seems, is never done.



Stonechats: dancing on air

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — listen for robins singing. Twitchers — lesser white-fronted goose at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire; three penduline tits at Dungeness, Kent. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.*

All play and no work

SAILING: How to tour the Caribbean and avoid lifting a finger

Cruise control: the majestic *Cap*

I once sailed the Caribbean in a crude yacht. Hardly a yacht really, but a clinker-built, open-decked Royal Navy whaler with a loose-footed mainsail driving her down the trade winds. For two days we rolled westwards between Trinidad and Bequia in the Windward Islands, the breeze warm and steady and the waves undulating like oceanic dunes.

At night flying fish would rise from the phosphorescent sea and thud into the sail, startling the off-duty watch. Sleep came easily; lulled by a rocking universe of stars and the whisper of the tropical wind.

A recent return to the West Indies brought back those National Service memories. The Caribbean was unchanged, still the same rum-dark sea at sunset, with islands thrusting dramatically from the horizon, tall and tree-clad and *fringed with bright rims of sand. Only the* yacht had changed. *Cap*, our vessel, was crewed rather than crude, £2 million *worth of French elegance*, 76ft long with an interior designed by Olivier Lafourcade and incorporating, according *to the prospectus*, "a blend of teak, dappled mahogany and Finland birch". The exterior hull was maroon-glazed metal, utterly sleek and built to conquer oceans; worlds away from the whaler that had introduced me to these islands.

We *joined the ship* in Antigua late after a little local difficulty involving the undercarriage of a British West Indies Airways Tri-Star. "Grab hold of your ankles," yelled the stewardess as the aircraft touched down in Barbados and *started to vibrate like a cat after a pigeon*. Lockers burst open and the television projector above my head crashed down. I was *looking round for some ankles to* grab when the aircraft shuddered to a halt and then limped from the runway behind a breakdown truck. A smoother and less eventful flight brought us to where we should have been, close by English harbour in Antigua where the cockpit of *Cap* was laid out for dinner.

Marc Lamaison, the captain of *Cap*, explained that the aim behind offering a crewed yacht was to allow even those unable to distinguish a reefing handle from a bowsprit the pleasure of sail-cruising the Caribbean in a comfortable — in *Cap*'s case luxurious — and substantial yacht. *Cap* had a crew of three and clients could, as they wished, help to steer the boat or man the decks.

Cap ranks in the top luxury class offered by Moorings, a yacht charter company, and up to eight guests can be accommodated in four en-suite and air-conditioned cabins. A distant rumbling in the bows next morning signalled that Benoit, the crewman, was operating the windlass to lift the anchor.

The yacht slid under way, manoeuvring among the vast colony of sailing craft anchored in Falmouth harbour. Antigua, in the Leeward Islands, *was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and* settled by the English in 1632. For centuries it was a British colony with Nelsonian associations. *Sail-cruising* allows ample time for exploring ashore.

With the wind across the stern and a purple spinnaker blossoming from *Cap's* enormous mast, the yacht surged along at ten knots as dolphins kept pace with the bow. Long before sunset we were anchored off Pinney's Beach on Nevis, the next island in the Leeward chain, with cocktails in the Four Seasons hotel bar. "Is that your yacht?" the president of a Milwaukee canning factory enquired as *Cap* lay majestically at rest against a curtain of golden light. "Gee, that's just wonderful. Makes me feel trapped," he said. This was pure *Boyhood of Raleigh* stuff, with the old seadog pointing at the horizon before an audience of wistful youths. The canning president need not yearn. Moorings offers a Club Mariner package which is hotel-based but provides a taste of a private yachting holiday aboard one of the company's craft.

I left *Cap* and its lush comfort at Oyster Pond on the east coast of St Martin and transferred to the prestige-class catamaran *Vision*, with Jean-François Chevallier as skipper. For anyone worried about the way yachts *tilt under sail, Vision* is the boat to choose. The catamaran appears to be as broad as it is long, and slips across *the sea under a 100sq m main as a stable*, high-speed platform. A shallow draught and good manoeuvrability from the 50hp diesel *on each hull allows Vision* to anchor close to deserted beaches and islets. We cruised around Anguilla, with lunch in Crocus Bay, and the Prickly Pear Cays before returning to stay overnight at Marigot Bay, St Martin.

The final leg of the tour was from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands on board a crewed 50-footer called *Star Gazer*. This was a yachtsman's yacht, large enough for comfort but compact enough to give more of the essence of sailing than the luxury and prestige classes. Dave Christiensen and his wife Gail were delightful, relaxed company, and there was ample chance to help sail the boat down Sir Francis Drake Channel to Virgin Gorda and the Bitter End yacht marina on Prickly Pear Island.

The Caribbean has a fascinating scattering of islands and the most rewarding way to explore them is by sail. For non-sailors a yacht crewed by obliging professionals is the way to do it.

RONALD FAUX

- *The author was a guest of Moorings and of British West Indian Airlines (0181-577 1100). BWIA flies reguarly to five destinations in the West Indies: Apex return from £713.*
- *Moorings offers a variety of crewed sailing packages to the Caribbean. The cost depends on numbers in the party. Luxury-class: party of eight at high season is £1,498* per *person per week. Two would pay £5,236 each. Prestige catamaran costs are £1,043 and £3,080. Leisure class: £868* per person for *six, £2,340 for two. Flights extra.*
- *More details from Moorings, 188 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Kent CT9 2QN (01843 227140; fax 01843 228784).*

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Iris trumpets call for winter colour

Stephen Anderton digs into beautiful clumps of irises and explains how best to grow them for the garden and for the vase

Sitting on my desk is a single flower of *Iris unguicularis* (*Iris stylosa* as was), taken from the garden a couple of hours ago. In the warmth of the house, the bud has opened to a full flower of lilac mauve and, from close to, there is a definite perfume. But should you *pick* or *pull* winter-flowering irises?

There seems to be two schools of thought on this, and it has nothing to do with whether you prefer your Martinis shaken or stirred. Pulling makes sense to me, because *I. unguicularis*, the Algerian iris, has almost no stalk. When collecting them for a winter vase, what is actually taken is the 6in-long trumpet of the flower, the longest flower tube in the genus Iris. It is as if one were to take the trumpet off a daffodil and put it in water, leaving behind the seed capsule and the stalk. If the iris is going to be of any use in a vase it needs to be as long as possible, and pulling helps to ensure this.

Crocuses and colchicums also have long tubes and, like *I. unguicularis*, have the seed capsule down in the base of the leaves. By whom or by what nature intended these seeds to be distributed I am not sure, but in crocuses the seed capsules sit there at ground level after the leaves have withered ready to be knocked open by passing feet.

Colchicums flower in autumn, then extend a stalk with the seedhead on top the following spring, at the same time as the leaves. You might almost mistake them for green tulip buds. But the seed capsules of *I. unguicularis* remain down among the leaves and the leaves never wither. So unless mice or, perhaps, ants get in there to remove the seeds, they stand every chance of germinating inside an existing clump, causing no end of horticultural confusion.

Did you ever wonder why clumps of some of the weaker varieties of *I. unguicularis* seem to revert to mauve, or some indeterminate colour? Mostly the colour change is not reversion but occurs because seedlings have arisen within the clump. If all forms of *I. unguicularis* were equally good this would not matter, but some are much freer flowering and others have bigger flowers, stronger colours, or better perfume.

When buying a plant it is worthwhile getting a good form. Favourites include 'Walter Butt', a large and fragrant pale silver-lilac, and 'Mary Barnard', a pleasing violet-blue. 'Starker's Pink' sounds like a good colour but is, in fact, lavender pink, and dwarf, which makes it less successful as a cut flower.

Gardeners often prefer to let their irises remain *in situ*, in which case the untidy quality of the leaves becomes a matter for concern. They look a mess and, were it not a winter-flowering plant, it would surely be relegated to the BIO (botanical interest only) category.

To ensure that the flowers can be seen at flowering time, gardeners have the urge to pull out the old, dead leaves and to reduce the height of the foliage in general. But when to do it? Some people prefer August. This allows the foliage a chance to regrow sufficiently to look respectable through the winter, but not so thickly that the flowers are lost.

Cutting in August leaves rather a lot of blunt-ended leaves visible through the winter. Some people cut in April, after flowering but before growth starts. By winter the leaves will be longer, up to 24in or more, but they will have their natural pointed ends. The choice is yours, and both systems weaken the plant.

Fortunately, *I. unguicularis* is a tough old bird. Give it rich, moist soil and it will grow like pampas grass, but never flower. Plant it in sunny, rubbly, limey soil and it will have much less leaf but plenty of flower.

A summer baking is what it needs, and if there is a mass of smothering, succulent foliage, the sun can never get down into the clump to encourage the rhizomes to flower — another good reason for cutting in August.

Pulling out the old leaves is a frustrating job. You will never get a clean, all-green clump, because the old leaves hang on to the bitter end and come away only when old and completely dead. The newly dead will not pull away. But is is worth doing what you can, because the great enemy of Algerian irises is slugs, and the fewer hiding places in the clump, the freer they will be of the pest.

For gardens without hot sun and well-drained soil, there is an alternative — *Iris lazica*. It is similar in many ways to *I. unguicularis* and flowers on and off from October to March. It is evergreen, has broader, more attractive foliage and its flowers are slightly shorter, and generally a darker shade of mauve or purple.

The chief virtue of *I. lazica* is that it will flower in moist shade, say the gardening books, but read "shade" with some scepticism. Dappled shade is probably correct. In Northumberland, I used to grow it in dry, south-facing sandy soil, and it flowered prolifically, with no bleaching of the foliage. In the hotter south, dappled shade is the equivalent condition.

Both irises are best divided in September, and should not be broken up into small pieces. Even large offsets will take a few years to settle down to flowering again. Their questing, wiry roots are very long, and need to be thoroughly at home before they think about procreation: life in the arid lands was never easy.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *To help animal life, break open a small area of frozen ponds in bitter weather.*
- *Dress with lime those areas of the vegetable garden intended for brassicas (cabbage family).*
- *Keep greenhouse watering cans or tanks full, so that water when required is not icy from the tap.*
- *Spray fruit trees with tar oil wash in still weather, to kill overwintering eggs of insect pests.*

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Iris unguicularis 'Walter Butt' — large and fragrant in silver-lilac

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I grew some standard fuchsias from cuttings last year. How should I prune them so that they will do well again this year? — Mrs K.M. Robb, Wooler, Northumberland.

A Keep your fuchsias cool and on the dry side during the winter, giving just enough moisture from time to time to keep them from wilting. In spring, repot them and prune back the head of the bush, taking main shoots back to two pairs of buds, and taking out weak shoots. When the new shoots break, nip out the tips, after four to five pairs of leaves, to encourage a bushy head. Feed well as the season progresses with liquid tomato fertiliser. Rub off any sucker shoots on the stem.

Q My two-year-old pot-grown *Crambe cordifolia* has not flowered. Why? — Mrs M.E. Hum, Chichester, West Sussex.

A A clump of crambe in full summer sail is quite a sight. When it flowers, a hollow trunk shoots up from coarse, kale-like foliage to branch and burst into a thousand white stars. One plant is good, but three is amazing. The trunks need staking, because they will rise to 7ft, with a dome of flower half as much across. It is not an easy plant to pot-up. If you lift a crown, you will have to slice off a bud with some of the fat, arm-like roots attached. The chances are that the main flowering-sized buds will be in the middle of the clump, and almost unpottable without including the whole clump or without cutting off all the roots. Meanwhile, all the bits of root you left behind sprout new crambe plants. Crambe is most easily grown from seed, using modest amounts of compost. But you have to wait three or four years for the crown to reach flowering size. A word of caution: do not feed it too much nitrogen, which makes the crown soft and sometimes rot or go hollow. Give it rough, well-drained soil.

Q By how much, and when, should I cut back my straggly three-year-old lithospermum? — P. Miles, Gosport, Hampshire

A *Lithospermum diffusum*, or *Lithodora diffusa* as it is now called, looks wonderful as a first-year plant in a small pot and covered in intense, deep-blue tubular flowers. But it serves best when grown among other low, lime-hating plants. To encourage neatness and density of foliage, nip out the tips of the leading shoots regularly, forcing it to branch out sideways. Planted on its own, it almost always becomes bald at the centre in two to three years.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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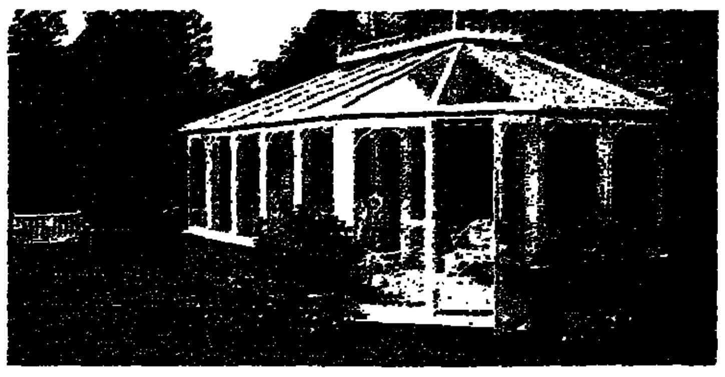

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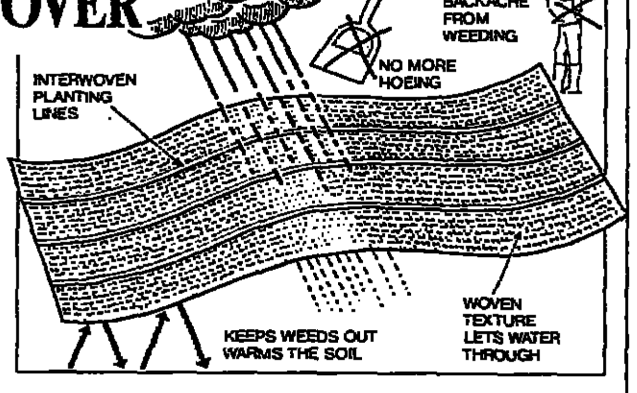

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Green code for the wild at heart

Your garden doesn't have to be waist-high in nettles and grass to encourage wildlife to flourish

SPECTRUM

Green belt: ecological disturbance is inevitable in any garden but Lady Salisbury has managed to blend formal and informal styles at Hatfield House to great effect

Almost everyone likes the idea of wildlife in a garden, but the zeal of the more fanatically green-minded can be unnerving. Pay too much heed to purists and you'll find yourself racked with guilt for giving a well-executed piece of topiary even the briefest of admiring glances.

Plant only pure species, they advise, to attract local fauna. Have weeds in the lawn, permit nettles to rampage in the borders (for butterflies), and install a large "natural" pond with a bog area and sloping sides for slimy things to crawl in and out of. All good in theory, of course, but impractical for most small, modern gardens.

In any gardening activity, a certain amount of ecological disturbance is inevitable, but you can do plenty for the wild things without having to compromise your art. Even if your design is strictly formal, with no space for miniature meadows or wild woodland corners, your garden is probably more wildlife-friendly than you think. And, with a few minor adjustments, it could become as ecologically correct as an unkempt wilderness.

A good garden is not possible without a good design, but whatever the style, wildlife-friendly features are easy to accommodate. Even a tiny terrace has possibilities, but artistic wildlife gardening is easier on a larger scale. At Hatfield House in Hertfordshire, for example, Lady Salisbury has managed to keep faith with the garden's four centuries of history by blending formal and informal styles, thus accommodating both wild and non-wild.

In the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Rosemoor, in north Devon, it is interesting to see how the original garden, developed by Lady Anne Berry in the 1960s and 1970s, has run in constant sympathy with its wild coombeland site and is rich with interesting species. Rosemoor's new gardens, however, developed over the past decade, have not attempted such a harmonious relationship and, though magnificent, lack the same ecological richness.

Lady Anne allowed her gardens to merge into the woodland, permitting primroses, bluebells and red campion to cross the boundary and partner her Chinese rhododendrons and American hollies. But she was a stickler for garden discipline and never permitted a single weed in any of her borders. She had a gardener and a part-time helper but they had to cover four-and-a-half acres of land, so she did sometimes use chemicals sparingly so that the wildlife areas could happily cohabit.

On a smaller scale, accommodating wildlife without ruining the garden presents more of a challenge, but is still feasible. Wildlife needs cover — somewhere to live undisturbed — so introducing thick ground-cover plants such as cranesbills, bergenias or lungworts makes a good start, and gives a gorgeous display.

Resisting the temptation, in autumn, to cut back perennials and tidy the borders will result in a softer environment for species which overwinter here. Few sights are as attractive, for instance, as goldfinches feeding on Michaelmas daisy seeds with winter sun highlighting their scarlet faces and yellow wing bars. Summer perennials do better if not cut back until early spring, and will look almost as lovely in winter when mist and frost throw their profiles into soft focus.

Long grass is important for wildlife, providing a habitat for several links in the food chain, but trying to turn the family lawn into a flower meadow is seldom practicable. Small areas of long grass, however, will allow a compromise. Corners by trees or walls, small patches between shrubs or steep banks which present mowing difficulties could all be set aside for this.

Butterflies will arrive, seemingly from nowhere. Several need grass as food for their caterpillars and, since introducing long grass in our Lincolnshire garden, we have enjoyed speckled woods, ringlets, small heaths and other meadowland species.

Conservationists who recommend nettles in the border, however, are wishing an unnecessary evil upon gardeners. Wild nettles grow almost everywhere and nettle-feeding peacock and small tortoiseshell butterflies, though they breed on wasteland, constantly visit gardens for their flowers. Water, we are told, is essential for an ecological garden. Presumably, the larger and more natural the pond, the more likely it is to attract wild species, but even the smallest and most formal pools can still accommodate amphibians and is sure to be used by birds. Some shallow water, and an area of easy access to dry land, is essential, but this need not be a muddy slope. Paving, set close to the water's edge, will serve almost as well. Submerged baskets, furnished with tall plants such as irises or rushes, will provide cover and emerging points for insects.

Back to nature: garden tips and eco-friendly plants

SIMPLE TIPS FOR WILDLIFE AND BEAUTY:

- Consider dry stone walling. Wrens and tits can nest, reptiles can hibernate and interesting plants can grow in the crevices.
- If making a bower or seating area, furnish it with paving slabs over dry, sandy cavities, so that amphibians, particularly toads, can hibernate there.
- "Legitimise" long grass areas by routing close-mown paths through them, or by having fine lawn running up to them to make a bold contrast.
- Avoid fussy pond fountains that disturb the whole water surface. Insects prefer still water.
- Place a large log or tree trunk as a feature over which to grow climbers. As it decays, it will feed and house many species.

Good-looking, eco-friendly plants:

- *Cotoneaster horizontalis*: nectar, fruits for food plus cover. On a wall, it is also a good vehicle for climbers.
- *Geranium macrorrhizum* — virtually evergreen, fine flowers in late spring, grows anywhere, makes seamless groundcover.
- Ivy: especially *Hedera colchica*; 'Sulphur Heart'; and *H Helix*, 'Heise'.
- Hawthorns: go for late-blooming species such as *Crataegus tanacetifolia*.
- Lavender: plant hedges or groups of *Lavandula angustifolia*: 'Hidcote' — nectar for seeds; *L. rediviva*: 'Honesty' attracts orange-tip butterflies.
- Mountain ashes: try *Sorbus hupehensis* (pink berries) or *S. cashmiriana* (white berries, pink blossom).
- Single-flowered roses: look for *Rosa moyesii* or ramblers such as *R. filipes*. *Vinca*.
- Periwinkles: provide good spring colour and cover for voles, mice and slow worms.

Wildlife-friendly gardens (check first for opening times): England: Doddington Hall, Doddington, Lincoln (01522 694308); the Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon (01822 854769); Docwra's Manor, Shepreth, near Cambridge (01763 260235). Scotland: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (0131-552 7171). Wales: Lower House Farm, Nantyderry, Abergavenny (01873 880257).

The mainstay of decorative conservation gardening, whatever the design, is with plants. Careful planning for year-long visual delight also suits the wildlife. Winter berries feed birds, and plants that bloom through autumn or early spring sustain early and late bees and butterflies. A garden that looks pretty in winter will be well stocked with evergreens — which are ideal for nesting sites and provide protection from the coldest nights.

Purists insist on wild species for feeding birds and squirrels, but cultivated plants can be just as fruitful. Wild rosehips are popular with winter migrant birds such as redwings and fieldfares, but the fruits on our exotic *Rosa rugosa* usually get eaten first. Even highly bred rose varieties, including 'Scarlet Fire' and the gorgeous pink climber 'Madame Grégoire Staechelin' provide an abundance of winter food. Conifers attract coal tits and, if you are lucky, golden-crested wrens.

Climbers on walls are wildlife-friendly, too: honeysuckle, for its red autumn berries; clematis, whose fluffy seeds make nesting materials for voles and fieldmice; and, above all, ivy. If it is allowed to mature and flower, ivy is the richest conservation plant of all, providing nectar for late butterflies, berries for winter birds, shelter for insects and, if thick and well established, even a haven for our most threatened mammal, the bat.

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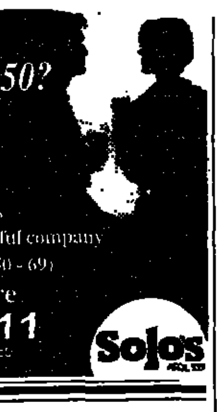

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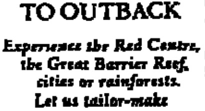

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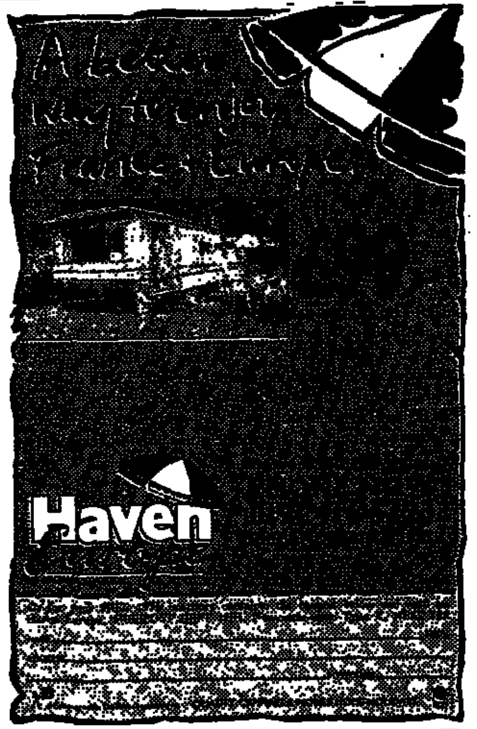

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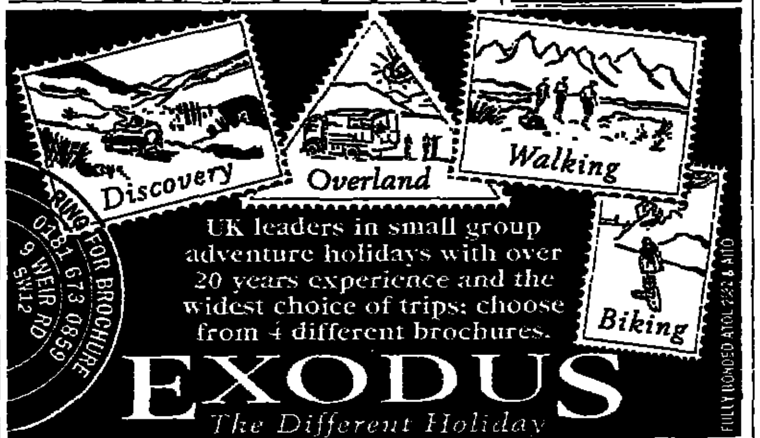

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

LUKE McSHANE'S achievement in becoming, at 11, the youngest British player ever to defeat a grandmaster in a formal tournament has amazed chess devotees around the country. Indeed, his record in defeating grandmaster Colin McNab eight days before his 12th birthday will stand with the best and certainly goes into the chess history books.

Each year the nation's chess fans travel to Hastings for the traditional New Year Congress, founded in 1895 and thus celebrating its centenary over the turn of the year. As the world's longest running chess tournament, Hastings has witnessed exploits on the 64 squares by most of the greats, including Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine and the Soviet champions, Botvinnik and Karpov.

Luke was recognised as an outstanding talent at the age of five, when he frequented the London Chess Centre in Clapham, where he lives. His early teacher was the centre's director, Julian Simpole, followed by the grandmaster Daniel King. In 1992 he won the world championship for Under-10s at Duisberg in Germany.

Luke's achievement betters those of Britain's grandmasters such as Nigel Short and Michael Adams, both of whom had to wait until their teens before winning their first grandmaster scalp.

A boost to Luke's career, unavailable to British champions and prodigies of the past, has been ongoing support from a computer company, Psion, which ensures that he can take up tournament opportunities, and continue his regular tuition from grandmasters such as King and Jon Speelman.

Nigel Short first beat a grandmaster at the age of 14, when he crushed Tony Miles in the 1979 British Championship. Michael Adams beat James Plaskett in 1985, when he was just 13. Luke's achievement has brought him remarkably close to the world record itself. In October 1922, just before his 11th birthday, Sammy Reshevsky defeated grandmaster David Janowsky in New York. As far as I can see, this record still stands.

Here then is Luke's win:

White: McShane; Black: McNab
Hastings Challengers 1995
Pirc Defence

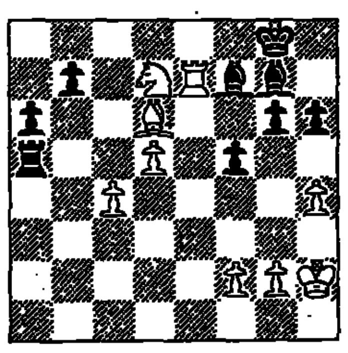
1	e4	g6	2	d4	d6
3	Nc3	c6	4	Be3	Nf6
5	Qd2	Nbd7	6	Nf3	Qc7
7	h3	Bg7	8	a4	0-0
9	Bc4	Nxe4	10	Bxf7+	

If 10 Nxe4, d5 regains the piece.

10	...	Rxf7	11	Nxe4	Nf6
12	Nfg5	Rf8	13	0-0	h6
14	Nxf6+	exf6	15	Ne4	f5
16	Nc3	Kh7	17	d5	c5
18	Nb5	Qd8	19	Bf4	Rf6
20	h4	a6	21	Na3	Rb8
22	a5	Bd7	23	Rfe1	Bf8
24	Nc4	Be8	25	Ra3	Rf7
26	Rae3	Bb5	27	Nb6	Bd7
28	c4	Qf6			

The game has been characterised by slow manoeuvre, but White's control of the e-file and greater domination of terrain gives him the advantage. For example, at this point White could consider the dangerous sacrifice 29 Re6 and if 29 ... Bxe6, 30 dxe6.

29	b4	cxb4	30	Rb3	Re8
31	Rxe8	Bxe8	32	Qxb4	Re7
33	Qc3	Qxc3	34	Rxc3	Re1+
35	Kh2	Ra1	36	Re3	Bf7
37	Nd7	Bg7	38	Bxd6	Rxa5
39	Re7	Kg8			



40 Be5. Although Black appeared to have gained some respite by trading queens, the clumsy position of his bishops now leads to a forced loss of material.

40	...	b5	41	d6	bxc4
42	Bxg7	Kxg7	43	Ne5	Kf6
44	Nxf7	c3	45	Nxh6	f4
46	Ng4+	Kf5	47	d7	Rd5
48	Re5+				

Black resigns

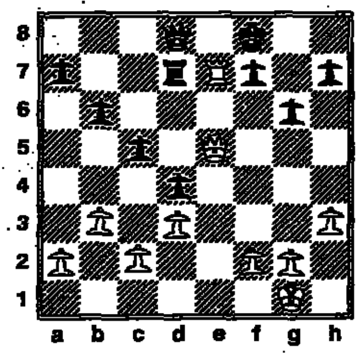
By Raymond Keene

THIS position is from the game Kwiletski - Roslinski, Poland 1954. White is actively placed, but with his counter-attack against the rook on e7, Black seems to have everything under control. How did White show that this is not the case? White to move.

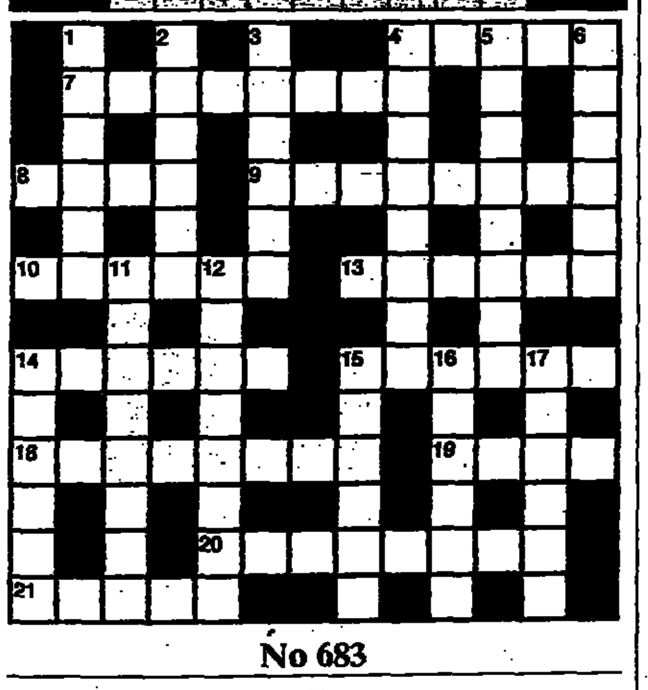
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Qxh4+

Last week's winners: B Conway, Manchester; G Sisakouni, Ealing; London; D Orton, Woodside Park, London.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 683

ACROSS

- 4 Off-the-cuff remark (2,3)
- 7 Kept alone (8)
- 8 Walk awkwardly; floppy (4)
- 9 Twin city of Sodom (8)
- 10 Vigorous scuffle (6)
- 13 Sword for thrusting (6)
- 14 Minister; dost meddle (6)
- 15 Madrid money (6)
- 18 Prov. calm body of water (8)
- 19 Vegetable, Welsh symbol (4)
- 20 Staunch, dependable (8)
- 21 Upright (5)

DOWN

- 1 Social environment (6)
- 2 Body of writings; Oxford college (6)
- 3 Complicated mess (6)
- 4 Argue for (8)
- 5 French region, cross (8)
- 6 Take pains; a nuisance (6)
- 11 Slender (in design); not fattening (8)
- 12 Bedtime bugle call (4,4)
- 14 Inflamed spot on skin (6)
- 15 Pool of water (6)
- 16 Oriental obeisance (6)
- 17 Formal pact (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 682

ACROSS: 1 Retard 4 Xanadu 8 Brim 9 Gimcrack 10 King James 13 Third 15 Cider 16 Break 18 Soliloquy 21 Square up 22 Jilt 23 Refute 24 Larynx

DOWN: 1 Rebuke 2 Triangle 3 Dogma 5 Ancestral 6 Alas 7 Unkind 11 Jack Sprat 12 Model 14 Iniquity 16 Bursar 17 Syntax 19 Impel 20 Gulf

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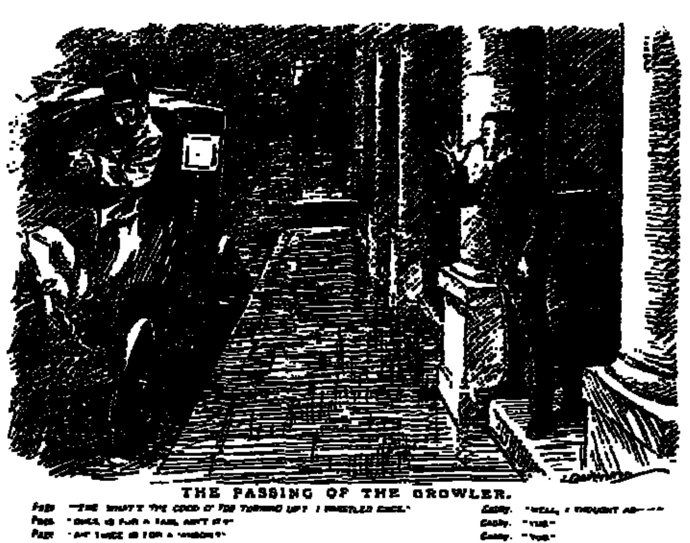
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The caption will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: *Cartoon caption (92)*, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 24.


THE PASSING OF THE GROWLER.

"Welcome to Saga Holiday's first *Gladiators* theme weekend"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by R.H. Crockett of Beachy Head, E. Sussex

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BUNKIE
a. A truant, skiver
b. A bunk-bed sharer
c. A cake-fancier

FAVISM
a. A broad-bean allergy
b. A movement in painting
c. A Finnish philosophical movement

GRIFFE
a. A Fifties throwback hair-do
b. A claw-shaped ornament
c. A guitar-strumming technique

BELLUM
a. A tiny bell
b. Almost beautiful
c. A Persian canoe

Answers on page 10

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE Sunday Times Pairs tournament was devised 30 years ago to be the best event of its kind. Its descendant is the Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, now run in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Seven of the 16 pairs competing this year are current World Champions.

This is a hand from the 1995 event, showing that even the best can muddle their entries on a bad day. The East-West pair, Meckstroth and Rodwell, won the tournament. Along with Hamman and Wolff, and Nickell and Freeman, they also won the 1995 Bermuda Bowl. The declarer was Pietro Forquet, a regular member of the great Italian Blue Team. They are all playing in the Macallan this year, alongside the People's Champions, Zia Mahmood and Omar Sharif.

Dir South East West Game Imps.

North:
♠KQJ4
♥Q7653
♦4
♣K76

West:
♠653
♥J108
♦108532
♣85

East:
♠8
♥AK9
♦AQJ6
♣QJ1042

South:
♠A10972
♥42
♦K97
♣A93

Contract: Four Spades doubled, by South.
Lead: eight of clubs

Forquet (South) opened One Spade and was raised to Four Spades. Rodwell (East) doubled and Meckstroth (West) did the best he could do by passing — Five Diamonds goes for 800.

Forquet mistakenly won the club lead in hand. To set up his king of diamonds before the defence established their club trick, he had to cross to dummy with a trump. When he played a diamond from dummy, Rodwell went in with the ace and played a second club. The declarer now had to come to hand with a second trump to cash the king of diamonds. He then continued with a low heart. West put in the jack, covered by the queen and king. East continued by playing a third round of clubs, forcing dummy to ruff.

When declarer played a second round of hearts, East ducked, enabling West to win and play a third round of trumps. The declarer was restricted to five spade tricks in hand, the king of diamonds, the ace and king of clubs and one ruff.

It was a good defence, but declarer does better to win the first club in dummy, and play a diamond. Then later the declarer plays a heart to the queen, and the defence can only get in two rounds of trumps. Thus the declarer gets one more ruff in dummy.

- *The 1996 Macallan Pairs Championship will be played at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, on January 24, 25 and 26. You can watch at the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. For information telephone (0181-878 5844).*

Win a case of Macallan ten-year-old malt whisky.
Bridge offer, page 12

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

"COME on, we can stop them before they unload their eggs." So says one of the gallant, stiff upper lips in the First World War dogfight game **Wing Nuts**. This is a wacky airborne shoot-'em-up laced with tongue-in-cheek humour. Here the enemy is the Prussians, a dastardly foe which has found a short cut to your airbase and so has started staging surprise attacks. The Prussians also have "an airship so enormous it blocks the sun".

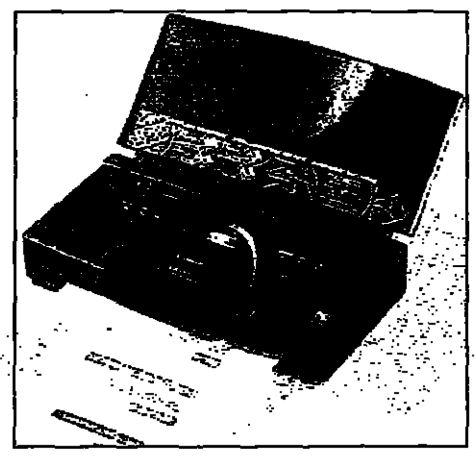
As the ace in the squadron, you must scramble into the sky in your Sopwith Pup, Triplane or Camel and try to shoot down one of the Bosh fleet — an Albatros or, better still, a Fokker triplane. Other mission objectives include blowing up bridges, hot-air balloons and, ultimately, a *Knackwurst*, the heavily armed zeppelin.

The CD-Rom uses real-time footage of real scenery, planes and actors, and in many ways conjures up the atmosphere of the film *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*. Mission scenarios are broken up by chunks of unfolding story, each swiftly acted and fast moving. The script is peppered with tally-ho treats, and at times the cast seems to be having such a good time playing toy soldiers that you think they may burst out laughing.

Shooting at the enemy isn't a simple blast. The joystick and keyboard controls seem stubborn, but the game responds well to playing with a trackball. Beating an enemy aircraft at its own war game is certainly adrenalin-firing and it's important to keep an eye on the temperature of your gun, for if it overheats you can soon become a defenceless sitting target.

The only hiccup is the quality of the imagery: the resolution and detail of the pictures is low and poorly digitised. Still, this gives **Wing Nuts** a gritty, grainy feel which suits it.

Wings is the name of a five-disc multimedia encyclopaedia of military aircraft and aviation coming from Maris over the coming 18 months. On Windows and Mac CD-Roms, the title will cover the period from 1915 to the present day, and the first in the series are already out.



Cyberspace 20's Canon BJC-70 printer

Wings — From Midway to Hiroshima focuses on the final years of the Second World War incorporating the Pacific, European, North African and Russian Theatres of War. **Wings — From Korea to Vietnam** picks up the catalogue in 1945 and runs with the aviation action to 1975 detailing, among others, combat action in frozen battlefields and the sweltering jungle. The third title is **Wings — Saigon to the Persian Gulf**, a fly-by of facts from 1976 to the 1990s.

The series features 3D-rendered models of aircraft and airfields, and uses animations to show combat tactics and the operation of combat weapons to explain the mechanics and strategy behind manoeuvres. The database will build with each disc, ultimately offering a detailed library of 500 planes and 200 weapons systems.

Each CD-Rom features three historical flight sims, putting you at the controls of US Navy Hellcats, B-17 Flying Fortresses, RAF Vulcans, Phantoms and an Israeli A4 Skyhawk.

For all this, the **Wings** collection seems to be at odds with itself. It is detailed, yet lacks a feeling of authority. While each disk includes an hour of live-action video, everything else featured is in animation form, but in this instance more real footage, photographs and, perhaps, actual design plans would have given the series a better feeling of authenticity. Moreover, the flight-sim elements are poor cousins to the genre.

This is the last call for Cyberspace Twenty, offering two top prizes of Canon BJC-70 colour bubble jet printers, worth around £250. Our winners, plus ten runners up, will also receive Brøderbund's **Kids Pix Studio** on CD-Rom. To enter you must predict three key events for the year; serious or humorous and of a personal, national or international nature. You should explain the reasons for your forecasts with clarity.

The competition is open to all ages and you must include your name, age, address and home telephone number. Entries should be sent to: Cyberspace Twenty, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, and arrive by midnight on January 23. You may also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. Illegible entries will be disqualified and the judges will not enter into correspondence.

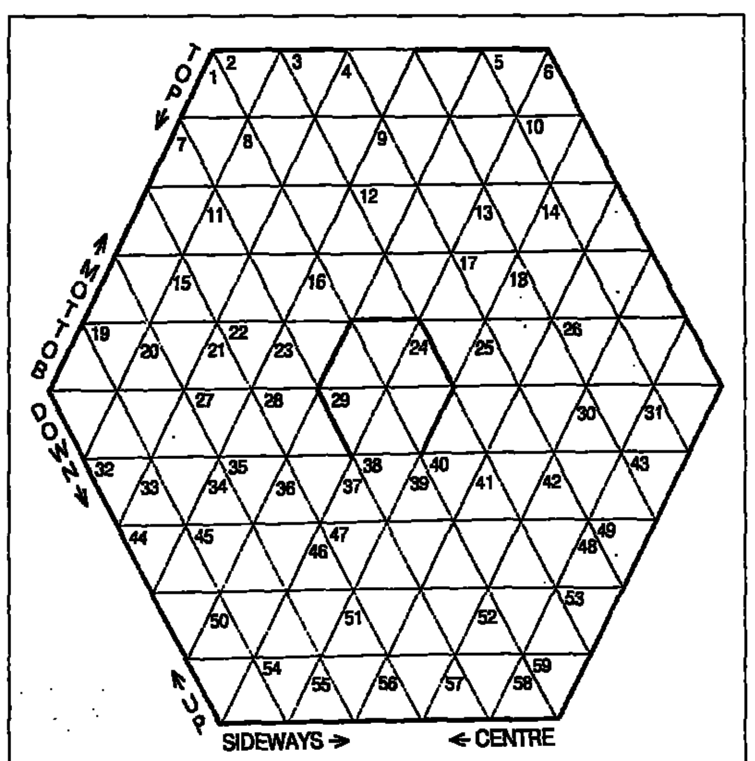
"War is, after all, the universal perversion ... war stories, the pornography of war." John Rae, 1960.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3341: The Hunting of the Quark by Blank

QUARKS come in six flavours: Up and Down, which constitute the nucleus of normal matter; Sideways (or Strange) and Centre (or Charmed), which are to be entered as one-word anagrams of the clue answers; Bottom (or Beauty) and the seldom-observed Top (or Truth), which are thematic. Lights are to be entered in the appropriate direction (to be determined), with the first letter entered in the numbered cell. Note THAT specific letters (never consecutive) should be barred, and do not occupy cells, and THAT you should not attempt to insert the normal bars at the end of the lights. In order to show that you have found the unique solution, delineate the clue that *you have prudently unravelled: and beware what is at the end of it!*

1 Judge eats finnac, and not water beetle (9)
1 What a plain sewer makes with water in a colourless medium (5,4)
2 Deeply fixed in grey sloth and . . . (7)
2 . . . has less than spine and only part of face (4)
3 Served at church in Christian times (4)
4 Confinements of giant charged particle separately in convulsive disorder (10)
5 It was Scrooge, hesitating, parting with wages, taxes (7)
6 Danced or sang or swaggered about first (8)
7 Possibly undersized apron causing row with gun layer? (4)
8 Cry "welcome"! (5)
9 Rest line on support (5)
10 Reveller is one included in duty list with hesitation (9)
11 Metric areas are south of imperial ones — less cold (4)
12 Indian bread that's filling — on the contrary, it leaves empty (5)
12 Well-favoured girl in town in Australia (4)
13 Records widow's pay too (6)
14 Cut makes police officer lose heart (4)
14 Degenerate king — he will be in pain first (8)
15 You've got nerves, going against headless priests! (4)
16 "Reticula": a person of standing is taken aback by "nets" (7)
16 There's nothing in extra payments without profit or gifts (5)
17 Railway lies about natural killer in one locomotive (6)
18 Every one in for every informer (7)
19 German strong enough to lift letter bag to top of wall (5)
20 It's not unknown to be a very hairy man (6)
21 St. John's children take off marks (6)
21 Brief moment in wrong direction had a decisive part (4)
22 Threatening if you start right at sea? (10)
22 Father almost always in for giver of money (5)
23 Old French in the manner of heartless oaf (2)
24 Invader with project against English makes sackings (4)
25 Schubert's unstarted — distracted by travelling news vendor (7)
25 The Underground? First, "the Underground": bizarre euphemism (4)
26 Second, it lets trains cross ramps as on regions of high ground (6)
27 A short poem in Milton's said to have amused very much (6)
28 Gave allowance for vehicle to soldiers with colour (5)
28 Victory memorial goes to waste away after execution (6)
29 To cry about falling profits (5)
30 Follow the scent of disoriented Turkish spirit (4)
31 Canadian canoes abandoning Alaska for maori meals (4)
32 Pay the penalty for bodyguard in very deep water (5)
33 Gather associate wears incomplete badge (8)
34 A knave is a short man with chronic internal pain (5)
34 Stone for grinding, not at a boundary (4)
35 Contracts equals halfpence (5)
36 It's of little value for honoured monk to receive mass (4)
37 O throw a fish back in game with two sticks (7)
38 Old man, old salt, old soul (4)
38 Most of a small cake's acceptable for an Indian clerk (4)
39 Salmon fly, and break into pieces (5)
39 Erected mound round backward Chinese unit (5)
40 A parrot is a jackdaw with the base too far forward (3)
41 Squirrel's and pig's homes, but not yards, were once finished (5)
42 Person in inn serves beer with sharp edge instead of vermouth (9)
42 Penman in a state about objection? On the contrary: the reverse (4)
43 Allosaur alternately changes from lake to river and makes noise (4)
44 Moderate politicians embrace everything where the money is (7)
45 Ridge raised by stroke of pick (4)
46 Man! That's a right male pig! (4)
47 Against it, and not turning (4)
48 Ring for fastening threefold slit (6)
49 Bromine absorbing vapour locally yields less solvent (6)
50 In an inner room in a city, a Lord Mayor finds a town-crier (7)
51 Sacred quest of country girl: to embrace god (5)
52 Harmony man writes note after note after note reflectively (5)
53 Kind at heart — kiss or tell (4)
54 Ian's to endure the miserable place (5)
55 A thicket may be found on top of someone's head (5)
56 He scores billion gold marks: rare surprise, but doesn't take so long (14)
57 Set a seta back among horse's ribs (5)
58 Tax the loud of voice? Not half! (5)
59 Succinct note about bitter vetch (5)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3341

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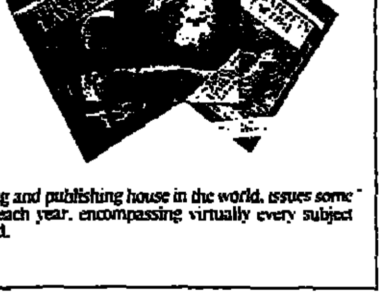
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No. 3341, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 1.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 30,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



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Solution to No. 3338: A Commodius Vicus by Aragon

The *puzzle's* title is a reference to the "commodius vicus of recirculation" which brings full-circle the narrative of the novel FINNEGANS WAKE by JAMES AUGUSTINE ALOYSIUS JOYCE. Across lights had their own "recirculation", *wrapping round the edge of the diagram where necessary* and interlocking with "A LONG THE RIVERRUN", the last and first words of the novel, which can, of course, be found if you "READ THE FIRST AND LAST SENTENCES" as directed by the down letters. The passage of across clues was itself circular, the first word doubling as the last, as hinted at by the punctuation.

ACROSS: the 27 redundant words were: Just, amiable must, extend, suspects, announcement, unlikely, gentlemen, unfailingly, session, terribly, irrelevant, nitwits, essentially, amoral, long-haul, outgiving, Yankee, swiftly, inelegant, unknown, shameless, judgment, outwardly, you, callous, Etruscan — spelling "JAMES AUGUSTINE ALOYSIUS JOYCE".

The winner is K. Mackenzie of Dunblane, Perthshire. The runners-up are D.A.T. Millar of Belfast and A.R. Mills of Cretingham, Suffolk.

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The best 20 models from a century of cars

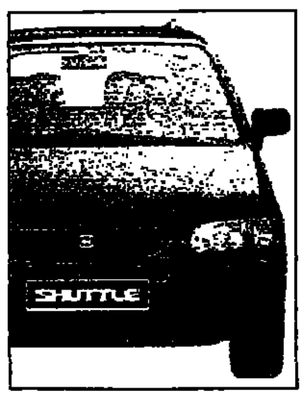
Page 3

The Times

CAR 96

Win a fabulous £23,000 Honda Shuttle

Page 9



SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1996

Passing their test immediately puts young people at risk. **Kevin Eason** and **Hugh Hunston** report

RUSSEL SACH

Crash course of experience: "I don't know if the car went off the road, but in a split second I was upside down," says Ellie Churchley. "I started to panic because I couldn't open the doors. Now I go everywhere at a maximum of 40 miles an hour"

Dangerous years on life's highway

Ellie Churchley was free at last, driving her own little car alone. Just three weeks after passing her test, the 17-year-old was cruising along a country lane when she leant forward to adjust the heater controls on her Mini ... and seconds later woke up to find the car upside down in a ditch.

Weeks later, she still has no idea what exactly happened, just that the car suddenly flipped over. But that moment's lapse of concentration could have cost Ellie her life and added her name to the horrific list of deaths and casualties among Britain's young people.

Car accidents are the biggest cause of death and injury among people up to the age of 25. Department of Transport figures show that 28 per cent of drivers killed and seriously injured during 1994 came from the 17 to 25 age group.

Young drivers often skip through their driving test, exhibiting enviable skill in operating the machinery of the car. The new written theory test, which is introduced from July 1, will also help force youngsters to study rules, regulations — and etiquette — of the road that many would probably have got away with overlooking in the past. They will need knowledge of everything from road signs to the effects of drugs and alcohol on a driver and how they can cut pollution from their cars. Ministers hope that deeper understanding will help to create a pool of drivers more expert than any that has gone before.

Every young driver is cursed from the moment they tear up their L-plates, condemned to joining the most accident-prone group of people in Britain, their destructive blend of overconfidence and inexperience at the wheel pitting the odds against them, as Ellie discovered.

"I was driving along quite happily when I wanted to change the heater," remembers Ellie, who lives in Warwickshire. "I don't know whether the car went off the road, but in a split second I was upside down. I started to panic because I couldn't open the doors. The car was wedged in a ditch up against a hedge. After a few minutes, I wound the window down and climbed out into the hedge, getting really scratched and then I waited by the roadside. Fortunately, a couple came along and picked me up because I was very shocked by then although, luckily, I was unhurt."

The experience was so traumatic that Ellie did not drive again for nearly three months. She says: "I have started to get my confidence back recently, but when I passed my test I wasn't nervous at all about driving on my own. I felt fine. Now, especially if the weather is bad, I go everywhere at a maximum of 40 miles an hour."

It would seem common sense to assume that little can be done to combat such inexperience — only hours at the wheel can solve that. But knowing when a car is likely to break away into a skid, discovering when to fiddle with the radio or simply put up with Terry Wogan for the sake of safety, and when to keep speeds down to stay out of an unpleasant shunt can be taught by organisations such as the Institute of Advanced Motorists, which can turn driving into an enjoyable art as much as a mechanical exercise.

> Cars are the biggest cause of death up to 25

Overconfidence is a trickier problem — and British youngsters are full of it, according to the results of a study published this week by the European Union. Researchers discovered that 11 per cent of 5,500 novice motorists across 15 EU countries reckoned they were very safe drivers. But 16 per cent of the 500 British youngsters questioned judged themselves to be among the driving élite. Asked if they were "fairly safe", 76.5 per cent of the Brits answered yes, but the average for the rest of Europe was just 47 per cent..

Whether British drivers believe that admitting to being a bad driver is like admitting to never having had sex we will never know, but youngsters have clearly picked up the syndrome that exhibits itself in every pub, golf club and boardroom: apparently, nobody is ever a bad driver.

Even taking the wheel with only hundreds, rather than tens of thousands, of miles behind them, youngsters could not admit to having any failings on the road: only 0.2 per cent said that they could be "unsafe".

How they view the car also gave the research team, headed by Neil Kinnock, the EU's new transport commissioner, cause for severe depression, with 27 per cent saying they thought of cars as "being just like toys".

To encourage young drivers to take the business of getting behind the wheel more seriously, the EU introduced its own competition, which culminated this week in a final in Brussels. Two Britons — Darren Steeles, 18, from Norfolk, and Gail Harris, 23, from Walsall, West Midlands — took part in the day of tests, but failed to get among the prizes. Ironically, a young man from Austria, the country with the worst car fatality rate among his European peer group, won the Young Driver of the Year competition.

With the carrot of encouragement, though, came the stick. Camille Blum, secretary-general of the European Car Makers' Association, warned that 13,000 young drivers were killed every year on western Europe's roads, another 560,000 injured.

If those statistics do not convince young drivers to slow down and take care, nothing will.

SIX TESTING QUESTIONS: HOW THE EXPERTS SCORED

YOUNGSTERS taking their driving test will be confronted with a written theory test for the first time this summer. But how would the professionals fare if their memory banks were examined by a sample from the 35-question test?

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, owner of the National Motor Museum in Hampshire, scored four out of six. Failed on factual questions such as the minimum depth of tread for car tyres and the legal blood alcohol limit. Welcomed the test as "quite a good idea" and "a step in the right direction", although not convinced the right questions were being set.

Jeremy Clarkson, presenter of BBC2's *Top Gear* programme, scored five out of six, failing only to identify the correct blood alcohol limit. "Anything which makes the road safer has got to be a good thing," he said. "The important thing is that the driving licence is regarded as a privilege, not a right."

Max Mosley, president of the FIA, the world governing body for motor racing, scored six out of six. "Anyone who didn't get a very high proportion right really ought to be made to go back and start their lessons again," he commented.

Montagu: right questions?

Moss: "logical and sensible"

Clarkson: "It's a privilege"

Mosley: six out of six

Stirling Moss, motor racing legend, scored six out of six. He also welcomed the test, adding: "I think in fairness most of the questions are logical and sensible. The problem is there are people who are going to be able to learn the answers who just have no intention of putting them into practice.

"I just wish that there was a better way to learn these things — and to ensure that they are followed."

The questions we asked:

1. To supervise a learner driver, you MUST (select two answers): Have held a full licence for at least three years (correct), be at least 21 (correct), be an approved driving instructor, hold an advanced driving certificate.

2. The legal minimum depth of tread for car tyres is: 2.2 mm, 4 mm, 1mm, 1.6mm (correct).

3. In fog in daylight, you should use: sidelights, full beam headlights, hazard lights, dipped headlights (correct).

4. You are going straight ahead at a roundabout. How should you signal? Right at the approach and then left to leave the roundabout; left as you leave the exit off the roundabout; left on the approach to the roundabout and keep the signal on until you leave; left as you pass the exit before the one you will take (correct).

5. What is the maximum legal level of alcohol in your blood: 50 mg per 100 ml, 60 mg per 100 ml, 80 mg per 100 ml (correct), 90 mg per 100 ml.

6. You are overtaking a motorcyclist. What should you do? Try to pass on a bend, move over to the opposite side of the road, pass by as quickly as possible, give as much room as you would for a car (correct).

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with contraflow between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout in White City.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

A240 Kingston Road, Tolworth. Major roadworks with lane closures in both directions between Jubilee Way and Worcester Park Road.

A315 Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith. One lane closed in the one-way system at the junction with Hammersmith Grove.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks daily.

M25 Surrey. Lane closures and contraflows between junctions 6 and 8 and junctions 9 and 10.

A27 East Sussex. Major roadworks at Firle, between Selmeston and Lewes, with temporary traffic lights.

A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne often cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.

A36 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southampton.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

M4/M5 Avon. Work on new Second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around Almondsbury and Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

M32 Avon. Widening work continues on link between junction 19 of the M4 and Bristol city centre, with lane closures and restrictions.

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.

M5 Somerset. Roadworks with lane closures either side of junction 23.

A4 Wiltshire. Roadworks and temporary lights in Calne town centre at the Market Hill junction and on Sandy Lane.

A377 Devon. Roadworks continue between Exeter and Barnstaple.

A39 Cornwall. Water company are digging up the road at Meads, just north of Bude with temporary traffic lights.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

A38 Hereford/Worcester. Roadworks with temporary lights south of Worcester and along the Redditch Road in Bromsgrove.

M6 West Midlands. Major roadworks continue between junctions 5 and 6 with lane restrictions in both directions.

M1 Leicestershire. Final stages of the major roadworks underway with lane restrictions in both directions between junctions 21 and 22.

A563 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contraflow on Lubbersthorpe Way, Leicester between the Dumbell Island and the A47 Hinckley Road junction.

A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks: at Terrington St John and at Swaffham.

A11 Norfolk. Construction of Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

● **NORTH**

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at the end of the motorway at junction 47.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 22.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26.

M6 Lancashire. Reduced to two lanes in each direction for work to the overhead gantries between junctions 28 and 30.

M66 Greater Manchester. Roadworks between junctions 4 and 5 with two lanes open each way.

A167M Tyneside. From January 21 northbound lane closures on the Newcastle Central motorway near the Jesmond Road interchange for bridge repairs.

● **WALES**

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with the second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A449 & A40 Gwent. Major roadworks on the Newport to Monmouth route, with traffic reduced to a single lane.

A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and the Earlswood traffic lights.

A550 Clwyd. Construction of interchange between Woodbank and Queensferry means lane restrictions and a 40mph limit.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near the A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

● **SCOTLAND**

M8 Strathclyde. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 26 and 27.

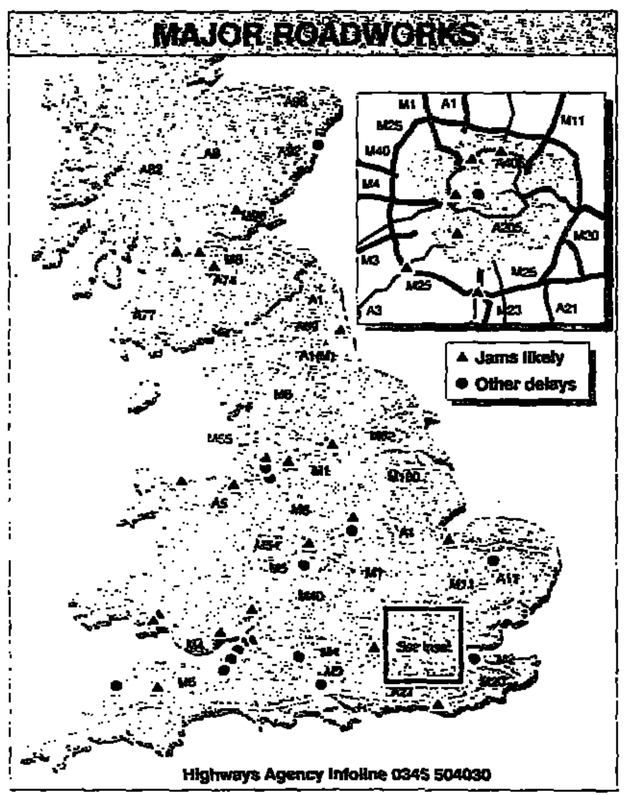
A741 Strathclyde. Major repairs to the M8 bridge on Renfrew Road in Paisley will cause delays.

Motherwell, Strathclyde. Airbles Road reduced to a single lane each way for major roadworks.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

A945 Grampian. Riverside Drive, Aberdeen closed for demolition work at Wellington Bridge.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

In two seconds I can now tell you the best way from Jersey to Orkney via Stonehenge and Chorlton-cum-Hardy

The theoretical means of travel

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

Depart Jersey airport, bear left on to B36, turn right on to A12, turn left on to A1, turn right on to ... *ferry. A page of instructions later*, we discover: At Stromness, turn off on to A965, arrive Kirkwall. Just when you thought you knew everything you needed to know about driving, this column confounds that belief by offering some edited highlights from a route.

Not everyone will have an immediate use for the route from Jersey to Orkney (773 miles taking two days, six hours and 47 minutes including stopovers), but if it can be done it will be done and I have just acquired a computer program that can do it.

The program is called AutoRoute Express and it comes from *Microsoft, the company that has* made Bill Gates one of the richest men in the world. There are other route planners like this one and I do not presume to endorse one rather than another. I do know that AutoRoute is more fun than sitting in a traffic jam.

Once you have entered start point, destination and a couple of other parameters — such as whether you want the fastest or the shortest route — AutoRoute computes the journey *and you can print it out as a map and* as text. The program produces the route in less than two seconds.

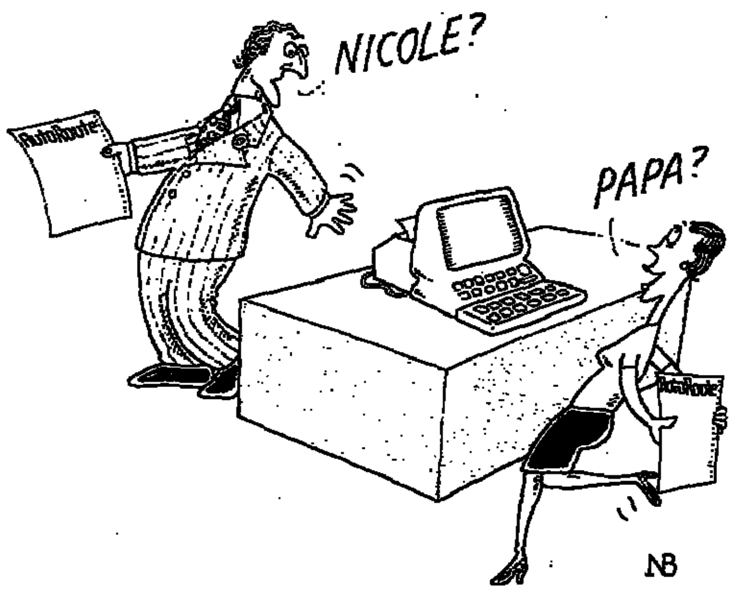
You can even ask it to build in specified places, such as beauty spots or even football grounds. Thus do I have before me a route from Plymouth to *The Times* office in London taking in Plymouth Argyle, Torquay United, Exeter City, the two Bristol clubs, Reading and assorted London teams. Well, you never know.

What AutoRoute does not have, obviously, is that contraflow on the M5 or the broken down lorry on the A38. *Therefore it perpetuates one of* motoring's most cherished myths — that it is possible to predict how long a journey will take. AutoRoute is essentially an optimist. The journey from my house to *The Times*, for example, takes the same time if you specify a mid-morning start as it will take if you specify driving through the morning rush hour. Some hopes.

The system's overriding benefit is that it does away with the need to consult maps while trying to drive *the car and reduces the risk of* "I thought you said turn right" shouting matches. *If AutoRoute goes* wrong, the only person to shout at is Mr Gates, who is in Seattle.

Does it go wrong? I have tried out half a dozen routes and found five of them to be spot on. But Jersey to Orkney offered a *ferry crossing from* Jersey to south Devon which is non-existent, thus throwing out the next stage of the route to the M5. The ferry goes to Weymouth, and if you ask for a route via Weymouth the program owns up.

So the software is not infallible, which I offer as a comfort rather than a criticism. *Best of all, if you ask* AutoRoute for beauty spots within a specified distance of your route it offers excellent colour pictures. So much easier than going there.



MONTHS ago, when I went to Newbury *for this column*, I predicted that the chaos surrounding the new bypass would be even worse than that which happened at Batheaston, which, incidentally, is nearing completion despite the efforts of Rent-a-Mob. Lo, it has come to pass.

The police operation at Newbury is costing no less than £30,000 a week and, because the force is on a fixed annual budget, that money has to be diverted from elsewhere. This is madness. The cost of policing road-building ought to be carried by the Highways Authority and built into the cost of the project itself.

To that extent, I agree with the *protestors, who argue that the* "real" cost of roads is understated. Stand by for a rise in crime elsewhere around Newbury being blamed, *de facto*, on the pressure for roads.

Low interest rates and high profits have created an upmarket sales boom, says **Kevin Eason**

Luxury wheels roll again

Sales of the most expensive cars on the market to highly-paid *executives are return*ing to the levels of the boom years of big City spending.

While average private buyers, worried by unemployment and the economy, stayed away from showrooms last year, boardroom chairmen and directors were replacing *their limousines and executive* company cars, flushed by lower *interest rates and their* firms' higher profits.

Undisclosed motor industry figures show that spending on luxurious executive cars, such as Mercedes, Jaguars and Rolls-Royces, jumped by £800 million last year.

Total new car registrations *last year grew by just* 1.9 per cent — 34,433 cars. But regis*trations in the executive and* luxury sector — traditionally classed as models costing £25,000 or more — jumped 16 per cent to 233,003, an increase of 32,086 cars.

But there was an even *bigger resurgence for the most* luxurious models, which are *bought almost exclusively by* companies for their executives.

Registrations of cars in the top luxury sector, which includes models such as the Daimler Double Six, Mercedes S-class, Bentley and Rolls-Royce — which can cost up to £100,000 — jumped 34 per cent to 15,545.

Spending on the most luxurious cars rose by £800m

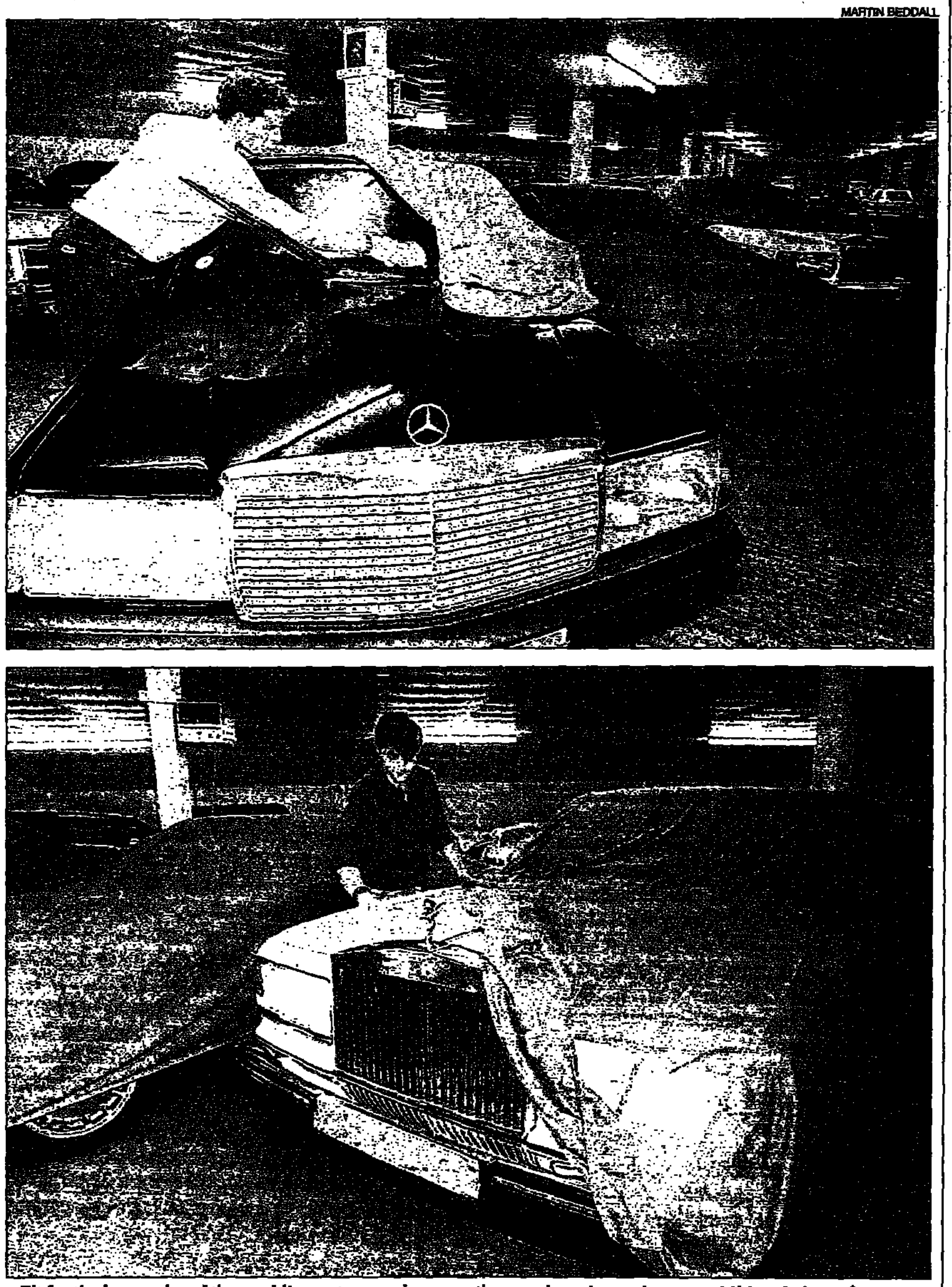
The *success of executive and* luxury models is in stark *contrast to the fortunes* of makers of family saloons and hatchbacks. *Registrations* of Fords, Vauxhalls and Rovers were all down last year, while Audi, Mercedes and BMW enjoyed record sales years. Jaguar sales were up from 6,659 in 1994 to 8,727, and Rolls-Royce, which suffered heavy losses in the recession, saw sales up to almost 500 cars.

The return of the luxury car is the most unexpected bonus in a market which was widely seen as stagnant and unlikely to get back to its 1988 peak of 2.3 million registrations. But *company cars are the driving* force in the market place, *accounting for an estimated* 75 per cent of all sales.

However, it seems that while spending on company fleets has increased recently, investment in cars for the boardroom has been even greater, much to the delight of companies such as Jaguar and Mercedes. Carmakers say *that* the luxury market has not enjoyed such high sales since the tail-end of the boom in 1990, and was on course for even bigger sales next year.

Mercedes-Benz sold more *than 32,000 cars last year, the* highest annual figure since the company came to Britain, which included a 34 per cent increase for its most expensive model, the S-Class limousine, with prices ranging between £38,000 and £99,000. The company also sold 1,000 SL sports cars, worth an average of £50,000 each.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Fit for the boss: sales of the world's most expensive executive cars have been given an additional gloss of success

Hans Tauscher, managing *director of the company's Brit*ish subsidiary, says: "It is true *that there is still no confidence* among average buyers, but our customers are *business* people and they see an economy with no inflation, low interest rates and their profits are good.

"They are coming back into the market place and re*stocking their fleets which has* meant very good sales for manufacturers of high-quality large cars."

Len Hunt, director of Audi, which sold 25,555 cars, added: "People have been predicting *that this market* would fall because of changes to taxation and drivers wanting to downsize their cars. But the market has gone very well for us."

The widespread belief that companies were replacing cars which were kept longer and over higher mileages during the recession has been discounted by manufacturers. *They say that companies have* returned to the traditional two*year replacement* cycle, leading to higher fleet sales.

*Without such sales, the mo*tor industry would have been going into its centenary year facing a struggle, for manufacturers still cannot attract ordinary *private buyers, even* though they are spending *millions of pounds on dis*counts and promotions, such as free insurance, cheap finance and special equipment. *Sales of company cars went up* last year by 6.3 per cent — but showroom sales to private buyers fell 3 per cent, the equivalent of 27,000 cars *worth a total of £240 million.*

Not that the struggle has *prevented carmakers from* raising prices. Vauxhall has *announced that its models will* go up by an average 2 per cent from Monday, while Nissan cars are already more expensive, by amounts varying from 0,8 per cent to 2.1 per cent.

Fiesta in the style of Mazda

Hugh Hunston

on a Ford clone

FOR FORD Fiesta read Mazda 121, courtesy of a reworked bonnet and grille, *different* front bumpers, hatchback tail*gate and the all-important* grab handle. The interior trim is also Mazda's own choice.

It has taken the Hiroshima-based company more than ten years of agonising before joining the Japanese "transplant" club in Europe. With a thinly disguised Fiesta, built by Ford *at Dagenham, Essex, as the* outcome of this soul-searching, the world premiere of the 121 in Brussels this week was underwhelming. Mazda will get 25,000 Fiesta clones annually from Dagenham to supply the European market and build a presence that has been lacking in this part of the globe while Toyota, Honda, Nissan *and Mitsubishi have* all built their own manufacturing bases here.

Peter Birtwhistle, chief designer at Mazda's European design studio in Oberursel, Germany, *claims the mild* makeover gives the 121 Fiesta clone a "*more friendly look*".

Mazda 121: Fiesta with a "more friendly look"

That implies that the fish*mouth grilled Fiesta has* a hostile appearance. What the Mazda does benefit from includes the unquestioned driving refinement of Ford's baby car, big car build quality and the sewing-machine-smooth 1.25-litre, 16-valve Zetec petrol engine.

THIS state-of-the-art unit will be matched to the Ford CTX (constantly variable) automatic transmission. Due on sale *in* Britain on March 22, the 121's pricing will *presumably dove*tail with its corporate sibling.

The *less sophisticated* 1.3-litre petrol unit is also on offer, *plus Ford's trusty* 1.8-litre diesel, while there are two trim levels — all Mazda's own work — to choose from.

Projected UK sales of 3,500 121s this year will help to bring Mazda up into the second division of carmakers operating on the UK, selling around 22,500 vehicles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Feeling flat

YOU COULD be reading this while waiting for your friendly local breakdown man to arrive, because the AA reckons that it answered distress calls from 609,500 motorists last year whose batteries were flat — a rate of just over one a minute. Flat batteries were far and away Britain's biggest reason for breaking down with tyres next with 154,860 callouts, keys 152,300, fuel 93,700 and starter motors 93,230.

VW leads Europe

VOLKSWAGEN is Europe's biggest carmaker, according to latest figures. The company improved sales by 4.6 per cent last year to more than 2.14 million vehicles. VW has been Europe's *number one for the past ten years and keeps on growing, not* only selling under its own prestigious badge, but also owning *Audi, Seat of Spain and the Czech manufacturer and once the* butt of industry jokes, Skoda.

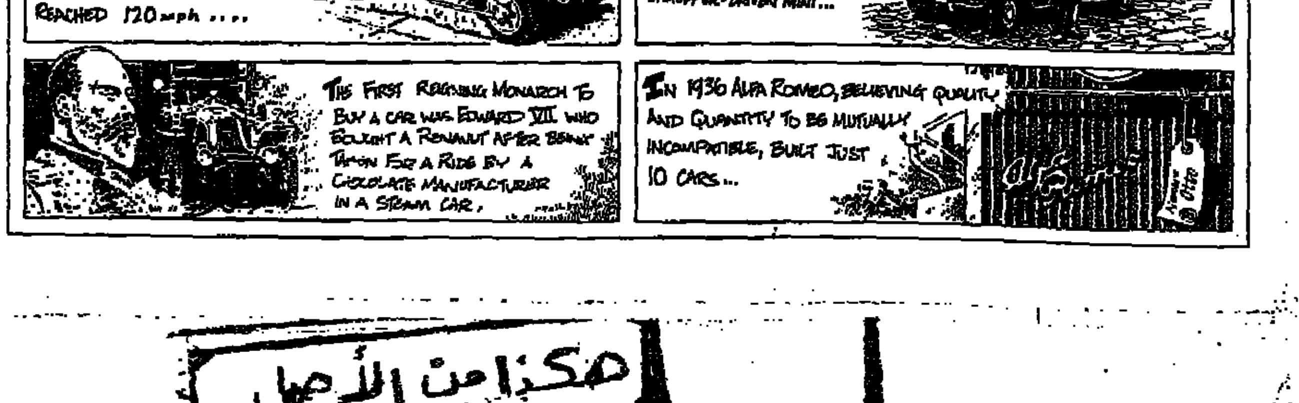
Honda ahead

A RESURGENCE in registrations of motorcycles has put Honda on top of the sales league. Sales of bikes jumped by almost 10 per cent last year to 53,721 with Honda capturing a 26.44 per cent share of the market with five machines — the *CBR600F, Fireblade, SH50, C90* and VFR750F — taking the top five places in the list of bestsellers.

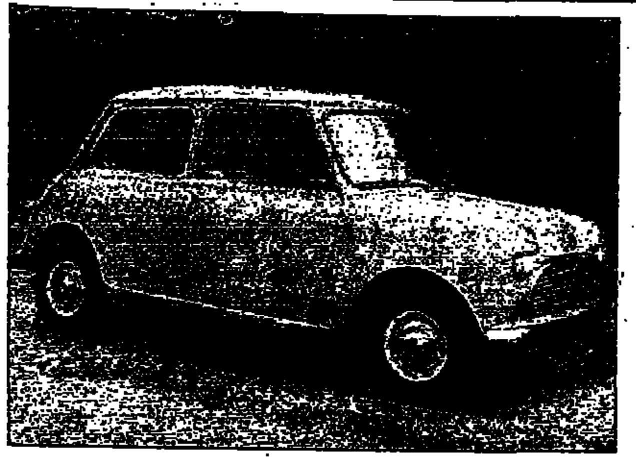
Packed Ladas

IT MIGHT be unloved by many, but the Lada has become one of the bestselling cars of all time. *Sales of the Russian-built saloons* and hatchbacks, have now topped 11 million worldwide since the first car rolled off the huge production lines at Togliatti in 1970. The bulk of production, of course, found homes in countries hidden behind the old Iron Curtain, but Ladas have had their devoted followers here too: the company sold around 10,000 in Britain last year.

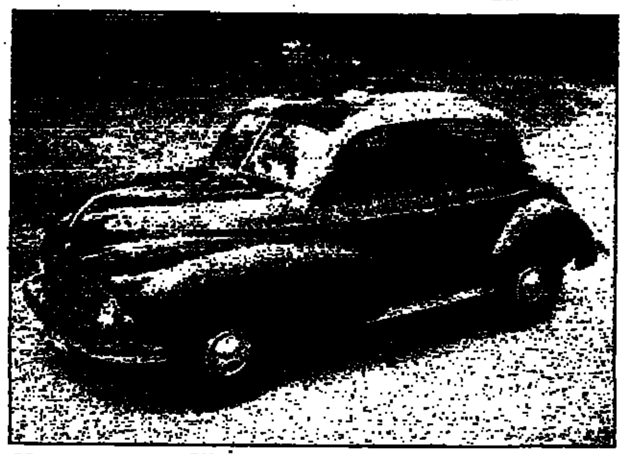
AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long


AN EARLY PROTOTYPE OF THE JAGUAR C-TYPE WAS TESTED ON THE MAIN RUNWAY AT HEATHROW WHERE IT REACHED 120 mph ....
IN OCTOBER 1967 THE FIRST ROYAL UNDERGRADUATE, PRINCE CHARLES, ARRIVED AT TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE IN A RED CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN MINI...
THE FIRST REIGNING MONARCH TO BUY A CAR WAS EDWARD VII WHO BOUGHT A RENAULT AFTER BEING TAKEN FOR A RIDE BY A CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURER IN A STEAM CAR,
IN 1936 ALFA ROMEO, BELIEVING QUALITY AND QUANTITY TO BE MUTUALLY INCOMPATIBLE, BUILT JUST 10 CARS...

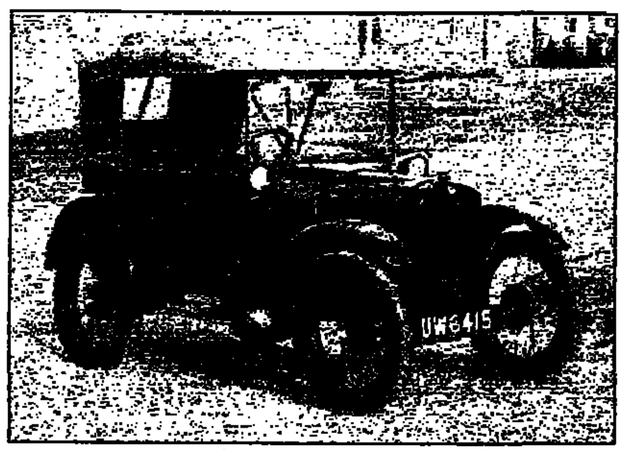
THESE WE HAVE LOVED . . . THE TOP 20 FROM A CENTURY OF BRITISH CARMAKING



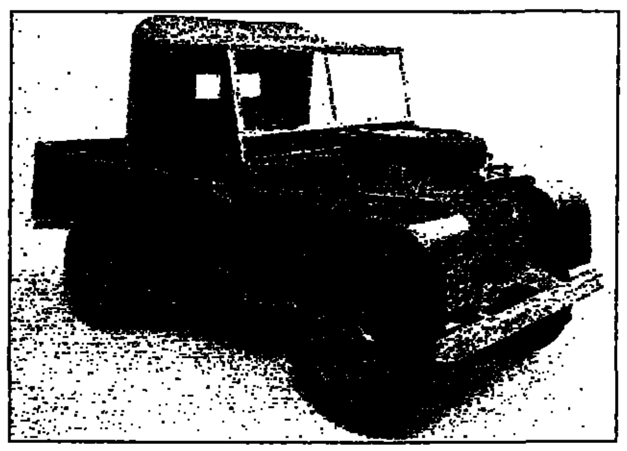
The Mini: Alex Issigonis turned the engine sideways and created a package much copied but never bettered. Still a cult car nearly 37 years after it was launched



Morris Minor: William Morris, who later became Lord Nuffield, told Issigonis it looked "like a poached egg", but from 1948 the company made over 1.6 million

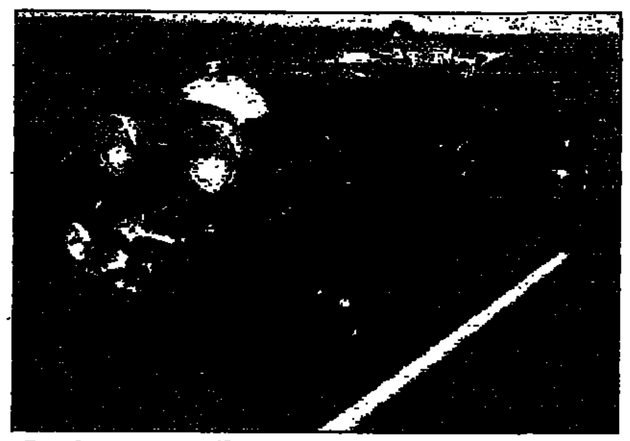


Austin 7: Launched in 1922 for £165, it helped to save the company. Its appearance meant that thousands of people could get on to four wheels for the first time



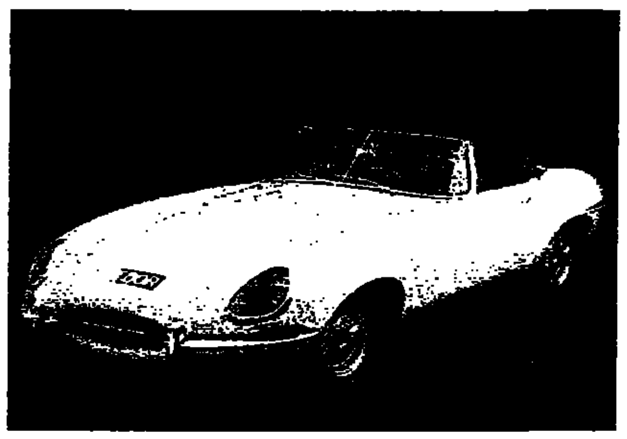
Land Rover: Spencer and Maurice Wilks only wanted a vehicle to keep their Rover factory busy after the war. They ended up with an aluminium-bodied legend

Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost: Proclaimed the best in the world and, 90 years after it was launched, it still commands the greatest respect of all British marques

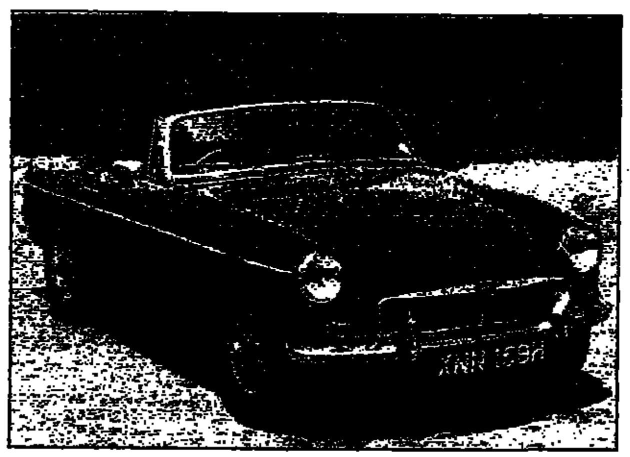


Bentley Le Mans: Few cars capture the imagination like the famed Blower Bentleys. To this day, W.O. Bentley is remembered with his own square in the French town

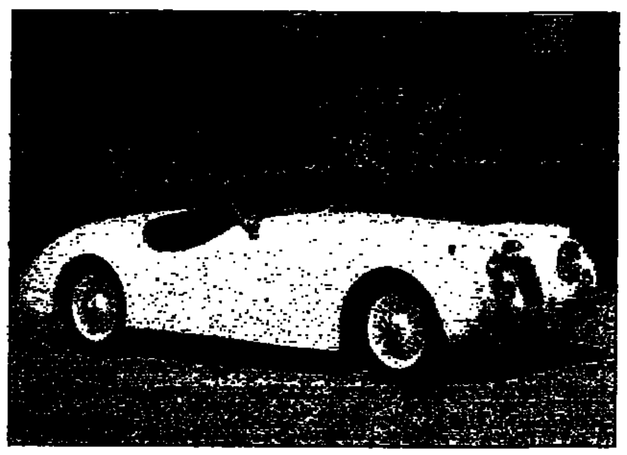
Aston Martin DB5: James Bond made it famous, but those clean curves remain as beautiful today as they were when David Brown (DB) launched the classic



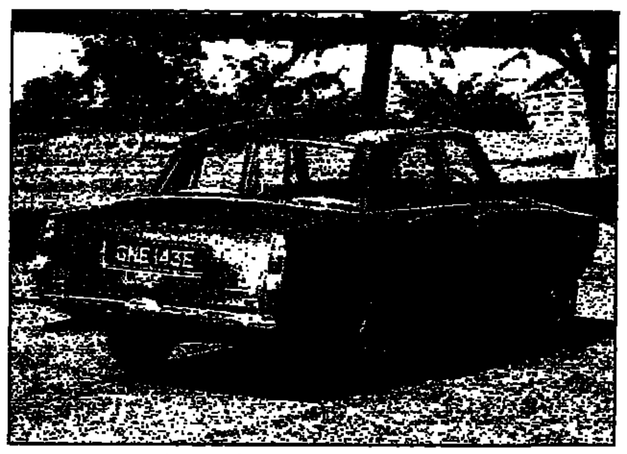
Jaguar E-Type: The first 150mph production car with an aerodynamic shape that knocked everyone out in 1960. No carmaker has matched its speed and impact



MGB: Still around in huge numbers even though the model has not been made for 15 years. Define a two-seater and it is difficult to escape the MGB package

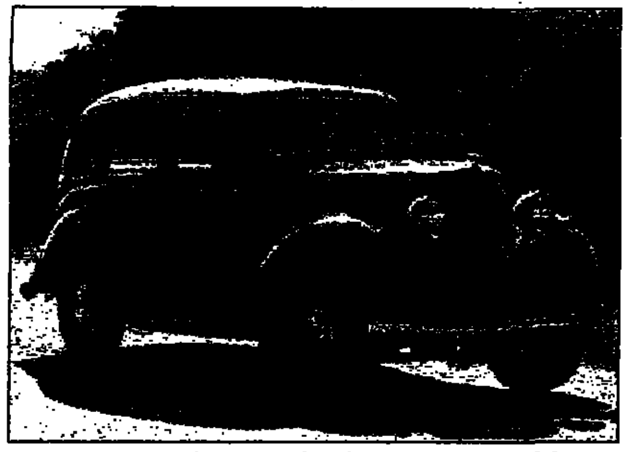


Jaguar XK120: Sir William Lyons proved his touch of genius with the XK120. Jaguar was a young company, but the XK120 established the name at the top of hierarchy

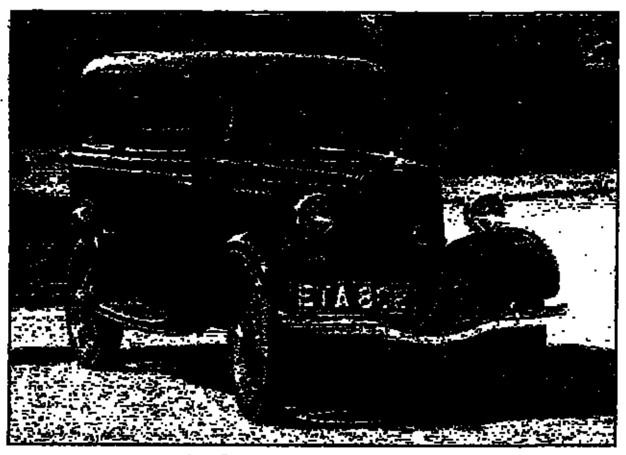


Rover P6: Better known as the Rover 2000, the P6 emerged unscathed from the chaos of the UK motor industry in the 1960s. Its angular looks remain distinctive

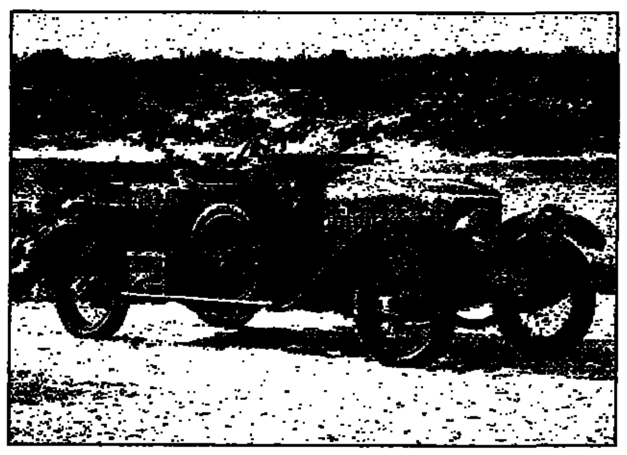
Triumph Herald: From Britain's most modern factory, with closed-circuit television watching bodies move along a new Standard Triumph assembly line at Coventry



Hillman Minx: The Rootes brothers' most successful car, the 10-horsepower Minx of 1932 was launched with a price tag of £159 and became an immediate best-seller



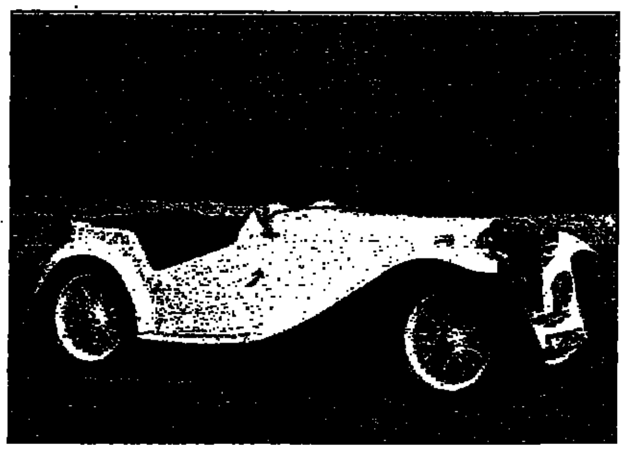
Ford Model Y: The first British car from Ford. The 8hp Model Y was launched in 1932; three years later the company cut the price of the two-door saloon to £100



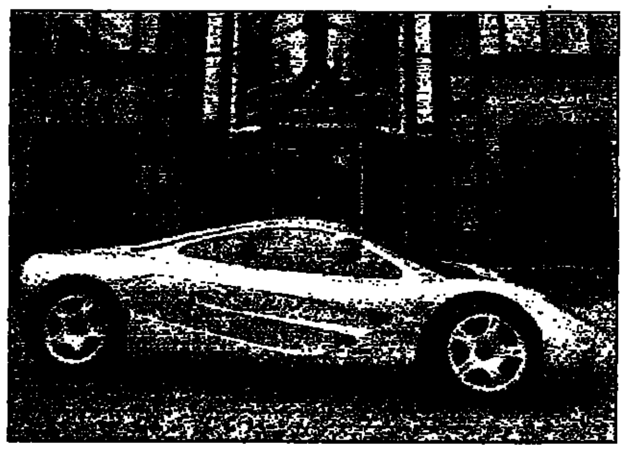
Vauxhall Prince Henry: Probably Britain's first real sports car, introduced in 1911 and named after a German speed trial on roads the previous year

Standard Vanguard: Those fat flanks and the bulbous bonnet made the Vanguard one of the most recognisable post-war cars, selling more than 250,000

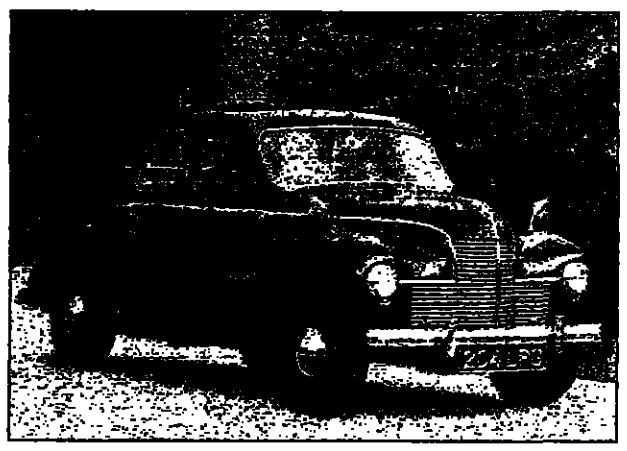
Austin Healey 3000: Simply beautiful. Donald Healey joined forces with Austin in 1952 to produce the Healey 100. The definitive 3000 was glamorous and powerful



MG TC: The original advertising slogan was "Safety fast", adopted now for the MG*F*. It was the company's first car after the war and became an immediate classic



McLaren F1: The most expensive British car, but it has everything — technology, Le Mans-winning endurance and beauty. Also, at 231mph, the fastest production car



Jowett Javelin: Jowett threw away traditional car design in 1947. The Javelin's styling was aircraft influenced, while the 1.5-litre flat four gave a top speed of 80mph

It is the ultimate fantasy league for motorists: 100 years' worth of cars from which to choose a list of the best 20 models ever made in Britain, **write Kevin Eason**. The task was set so that the City Council at Coventry, official home of the British motor car, could show off the marques that made the nation's reputation as a manufacturer of fine motors during this week's centenary celebrations.

But where do you start? Naming the top 20 cars is as much a subject for heated pub debate as trying to select the England soccer team. Everyone has a favourite and a reason why it should be in the list. The council asked readers of *Classic and Sportscar* magazine to vote and were, not surprisingly, inundated with suggestions.

Some of the choices were predictable — nobody was surprised when the Mini topped the poll — but there were dozens of eligible classics that simply didn't make it into the league table. Worse still for the modern motor industry, only one recently-designed car — the McLaren F1 — was selected, and that is hardly a "people's car" at a price of £634,500. The Land Rover is there, but that was invented and designed nearly half a century ago. For the rest, the MGB, which went out of production in 1980, is as close as the list gets to a modern car.

Maybe the mists of time have helped drivers to forget just how basic motoring was when most of their favourite cars were made — or maybe they are the sort of cars that we have forgotten how to make. Where are the voluptuous cars of today, the groundbreakers, the memorable models that stick forever in the mind and make people smile as they pass? There are precious few, to be honest . . . unless you look into the price category where six figures will buy a Bentley Azure, a Jaguar XJ220 or a McLaren.

Cars such as the Morris Minor were not just bestsellers; they established an indelible character which has never been forgotten by the motoring public. Has there been a recent, reasonably-priced model with a design as exciting and different as the Jowett Javelin, or even the muscular Standard Vanguard?

Nowawadays, making a car is liking pressing jelly out of the mould, model after model that looks just like the one next to it, often sharing the same floorpan, engines, switchgear and body styles. In the good old days, carmaking was often profligate and clumsy — but at least the carmakers had style. The curves on a 1950s Jaguar or Aston Martin are unmistakeable, the lines of an MGB an indelible image that has not been bettered, to the extent that the model is as popular today as ever, with a healthy and active second-hand market.

Some cars proved themselves the hard way, such as Rolls-Royce's Silver Ghost, not only elegant but renowned as the toughest and most reliable car of its age, establishing the company's reputation around the world after beating foreign rivals on mountain roads in the famed Alpine Rally. So did the fabulous Bentleys, which swept all before them in the Le Mans 24-hour endurance races of the 1930s.

Others were simply at the leading edge of technology, setting trends that every other manufacturing nation was forced to follow. When Jaguar launched its E-type, there was simply nothing like it in the world, its looks so extravagant and its performance so electrifying.

These are the 20 cars of the past 100 years that stir the emotions. After another century, will Britain have been able to produce any that have the same durability and appeal?

Photographs by NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM, BEAULIEU

THESE WE HAVE LAUGHED AT . . . CLASSICS BECAUSE THEY WERE CLUNKERS

FOR EVERY classic of the past century, there has been a complete and wonderful clunker. So many cars were well-intentioned, but ended up in the Hall of Fame for all the wrong reasons.

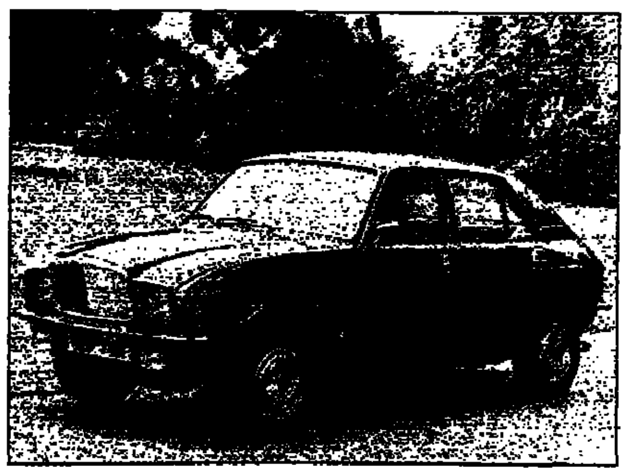
Right at the start, pioneers at the Scottish Argyll company put four-wheel brakes on their 1910 model, not realising that the design meant the steering locked every time the brakes were applied.

Sometimes the workmanship leaves much to be desired, such as on Jaguar's XJ saloons of the 1970s, which looked great but stalled, horns refused to work, power steering and brakes were faulty, wipers failed, fuses burnt out, remote locking was temperamental and the fuel pump frequently packed up . . . apart from that, the cars were fine.

Some companies, though, combined all the qualities of bad design, bad workmanship and unreliability quite brilliantly. Step forward British Leyland (or BLMC or BL), which made marvellous clunkers such as the Austin Allegro (and its upmarket Vanden Plas version), the Morris Marina and the Triumph TR7. In fact, the 1970s and 1980s were a rich time for duff cars, which probably explains the rise of the Japanese motor industry. For all that, their complete duffness seems now quite endearing.

Austin Allegro: What bliss. Who could possibly forget that rectangular Quartic steering wheel, which would have worked well so long as you never turned a corner?

Morris Marina: How could so many things go wrong? A pinnacle in the duff car stakes in 1973 which helped Britain's car industry along a path to near-oblivion



Vanden Plas 1500: If a car really is that bad, *then* just pull out all the stops and make it worse. British Leyland produced this luxury Allegro thinking it might help

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From the Bentley Boys to Nigel Mansell, **Tony Dawe** looks back on the drivers who became legends

Brits who led where others followed

Champion material: from left, Jackie Stewart, three times world champion, Jim Clark, the Scottish farmer who started racing for fun, and Graham Hill, centre (Stewart's wife is in the foreground), who began a period of British dominance in 1962

Bentley, Moss, Hawthorn and Hill are names that spring to mind when one considers Britain's glorious days in the forefront of motor racing, plus the Scottish heroes Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart. But perhaps the most important name of all is Hugh Locke-King.

By creating the sensational banked race track at Brooklands, Surrey in 1907, Locke-King, a wealthy architect in his day but little remembered now, provided the ideal training ground for British cars and drivers to gain the experience necessary to challenge the continentals, who had swept the board in the first races early this century.

Graceful Sunbeams curved round the track at faster and faster speeds before astonishing the French, Italians and Germans by clinching the first three places in a forerunner of today's Formula One Grand Prix at Dieppe in 1912.

By the 1920s, Henry Segrave in another Sunbeam and John Cobb in a Napier Railton were regularly winning international races before turning their minds to the world land speed record (*see below*).

They were household names even in the days when their exploits could be seen only on the occasional newsreel at the cinema. But the drivers who became legendary because of their glamour and fearlessness were the "Bentley Boys", a band of mainly English, rich young men who took Bentleys to Le Mans for the punishing 24-hour endurance race.

W.O. Bentley's robust and well-engineered cars were ideally suited to the toughest of all races, but it took a private entry by John Duff with co-driver Frank Clement to prove the point by beating 39 French cars in 1924.

Bentley entered his own cars in the following two years without success, but learnt enough to attract a group of rich and ambitious young men. Dudley Benjafield and Sammy Davis won again in 1927 and Woolf Barnato, who was partly financing the racing expedition, won in 1928 with Bernard Rubin in a 4.5-litre. But the company enjoyed its most astonishing success in 1929, with four of its five entries thundering home in the first four places.

While Bentleys won the toughest races, a company called English Racing Automobiles (ERA) became the first British firm to manufacture single-seat racing cars designed for shorter races and the hill climbs popular in the 1930s. The cars sprung to

BRITISH WORLD CHAMPIONS

1958	Mike Hawthorn	Ferrari
1962/68	Graham Hill	BRM/Lotus
1963/65	Jim Clark	Lotus
1964	John Surtees	Ferrari
1969/71/73	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1976	James Hunt	McLaren
1992	Nigel Mansell	Williams

prominence when Dick Seaman, another debonair if chunky Englishman, started driving them after making a name for himself with the American Whitney Straight team.

In his first year behind the wheel of an ERA, he won races in Italy, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia, and during a hill climb in Germany first noticed a trend which later impressed Nigel Mansell when he started winning races for the great Italian manufacturer, Ferrari. "The crowd gave me a very sporting ovation on the way down the hill, and altogether I noticed an entirely different attitude to that adopted towards continental drivers who come over to this country," Seaman recalled.

When motor racing began again after the Second World War, British drivers once more took a long time to seize the initiative. Alberto Ascari from Italy and Juan Fangio, an Argentian of Italian descent, dominated the grand prix circuits from 1951 until Mike Hawthorn sneaked in to become the first British world champion in 1958.

A spirited but erratic driver, famed for his endless pranks and rows with the owners of racing teams, Hawthorn won just a single grand prix, at Reims, but earned enough points by being well-placed in many races throughout the season to pip Stirling Moss to the title.

His Ferrari team-mate, Phil Hill, played a crucial role in the outcome by waving Hawthorn through into second place during the last race of the season at Casablanca. Moss, who remains a popular figure in the industry, became the "nearly man" of British grand prix racing, much as Damon Hill appears today, winning 16 events but never achieving the championship.

It was Hill's father, Graham, who became Britain's second champion in 1962 to begin a period of dominance in which UK drivers claimed the title for eight years out of 12. The roll of honour was shared by three very different men: Jim Clark, a mild-mannered Scottish border farmer who had started racing for fun; John Surtees, a deeply-committed competitor who had been world motorcycle champion seven times, and Jackie Stewart, the ultimate professional, shrewd, almost cautious at times, who became grand prix racing's first dollar millionaire.

Clark's death in a minor race at Hockenheim, Germany, in 1968 after winning 25 grands prix and two championships, led to an unofficial period of national mourning. On the race track, however, his mantle was taken up immediately by Stewart, who won the 1969 championship in a French Matra for a team led by Britain's Ken Tyrrell. He won again in 1971 and 1973 at the wheel of Tyrrell's purpose-built machines and achieved 27 grand prix victories, a total surpassed only by Alain Prost of France.

Following Stewart's surprise retirement at the end of the 1973 season, Britain's dominace of the grand prix circuit faded. James Hunt, a driver with a playboy image despite hailing from Cheam in Surrey, won the title in 1976, but it was not until Mansell's victory in *1992* that a British driver again ruled supreme.

Britain has a remarkable record of producing the world's fastest men

Daredevil drivers on speed

Ever faster: Sir Henry Segrave, centre, first through the 200mph barrier, with Sir Malcolm Campbell, left, who topped 300mph, and his son, Donald, who took the record past 400mph

Few activities reflect Britain's 100-year love affair with the motor car as powerfully as *the succession of attempts on* the world land speed record by a series of increasingly cavalier and heroic figures, writes **Tony Dawe**.

In machines called *Babs*, *Golden Arrow*, *Bluebird* and now *Thrust* drivers sought speed, fame, honours — and the title of "the fastest man alive" — not for themselves, but for their country.

Armed sometimes with a private income, an acquaintance with the rude mechanicals and a flexible sense of self-preservation, they faced battles to raise funds for their endeavours and frustratingly long waits for the right conditions.

Within two years of the birth of the British motor industry in 1896, Count Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat set the *first land speed* record in a French-built electric Jeantand at a remarkable 39.24mph.

Belgian and French drivers battled for the title until Ernest Eldridge, an Englishman whose name is barely known today, seized it for Britain in July 1924. His record of 146mph in a 1907 Fiat, powered by a new aircraft engine, at Arpajon, France, was the last title won on a public road.

Two months later, Sir Malcolm Campbell made the first of many record-breaking runs on the Pendine Sands in Wales, reaching 146.16mph in *Bluebird*, his 350hp V12 Sunbeam. This energetic character increased the record to 150.87 in July 1925, then began a long duel with John Godfrey Parry Thomas and Sir Henry Segrave.

Parry Thomas drove his own Thomas-Special, christened *Babs*, while Sir Henry sat behind the wheel of a 1,000hp twin-engined Sunbeam called *Golden Arrow*, the first car to exceed 200mph. In February 1931, Sir Malcolm wrested the title back and between then and September 1935 raised his own record four times.

It was not all glory: there were hiccups. For one of his attempts, Sir Malcolm selected a dried up mudlake in South Africa, only to find when he arrived with *Bluebird* and his team that the surface of the lake was covered with sharp shale splinters.

A hundred labourers were brought from Cape Town to scrape off the mud, sift the top soil, mix with water and roll back to be baked hard in the heat. When all was ready, Campbell was hurt in a freak accident. As he lay recovering, it rained over the lake for the first time in five years and washed away the track.

When he finally made the

[illegible]

1927	Sir Henry Segrave, Sunbeam	203.793mph
1935	Sir Malcolm Campbell, Bluebird	301.129mph
1947	John Cobb, Railton	394.200mph
1964	Donald Campbell, Bluebird	403.135mph
1983	Richard Noble, Thrust 2	633.468mph

attempt, he failed to beat the record, always set over a mile, but did establish a new record over five miles.

After breaking the 300mph barrier in 1935, he left the field to Captain George Eyston, who won sponsorship from the British motor industry, and John Cobb, rich from the fur trade. Between them, they raised the record six times. Eyston, in his twin-engined, eight-wheeled, six-ton *Thunderbolt* reached 357.5mph in September 1938. Cobb's twin-engined, 47,872cc, three-ton *Railton* reached 394.2mph in September 1947.

There it stayed for 17 years until Donald Campbell, Sir Malcolm's only son, drove another *Bluebird* at 403.1 mph at Lake Eyre, Australia. From September 1924 to July 1964, all the record holders were British, except Ray Keech of the United States in 1928.

Britain only lost the record when the rules were changed and jet engines were allowed. A period of American domination followed, until Richard Noble founded Thrust Cars for a jet-powered attempt on the record.

A throwback to a more romantic age, Noble seized the record for Britain again in 1983 with a speed of 633.468mph. Last year he set up a £5m project to make a Briton the first man through the sound barrier in a four-wheeled car.

Flight-Lieutenant Andy Green will attempt to beat 747mph in *Thrust SSC* (supersonic car) on the flat sands of Nevada's Black Rock desert this summer and maintain a long and treasured tradition.

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300CE 92k silver auto 49K, 1 owner, FSH, mint. £24,950 P/EX poss. 01622 670220

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95N	C220 Eleg Auto met, low susp + spt alloys, CD	8T	£27,995
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95M	C180 Elegance Auto, air con, ert, ew	8T	£22,995
94M	C180 Elegance 5spd, met, tsa, alarm, dsl	5T	£18,995
92K	220E Auto met, abs, esr, ew, ctg	17T	£17,995
95M	E220 Auto met, 2 x air bags, twne rfs	5T	£23,995
95N	E220 SE Auto air con, met, wal, secd, thr	8T	£26,995
94M	E250D Auto 2 x air bags, wal, rsl	20T	£23,995
95M	E220 Cabriolet Auto hide, hls, CD, 8 holes, wal	4T	£40,995
95N	E320 Cabriolet Auto sportline, hide, met, air con	7T	£48,995
95M	E280 Auto met, hide, AMG special	10T	£32,995
95N	E280 Auto met, Duchatelet alloys, wal, ctg, dsl	9T	£30,295
94M	320E Auto leather air con, sportline etc	27T	£28,995
95M	E320 Auto met, hide, sportline+8 holes, cc, ctg	9T	£34,595
95M	E320 Estate Auto [illegible]	10T	£34,895
92K	300TE Estate Auto rear seat, alloys etc	60T	£18,995
93K	320CE leather, air con, special alloys	51T	£29,995
94L	E320 Coupe Auto met, hide, 8 h, cab, mc, lca, wal	10T	£35,995
93L	S280 Auto met, 8 holes, esr, dsl, alarm	23T	£35,395
93L	S350 Auto climate con, dozes, hide, met, rfs	18T	£38,995
93L	300SE Very high spec	35T	£38,995
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95N	S500 Auto [illegible]	1T	£63,995
90H	300SL Auto air con, rear seat, clc, esr	45T	DUE
94M	SL320 leather, 2 seat, 8 holes, hls	6T	£55,995
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93L	SL600 Total spec	15T	£69,995
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95N	SL600 Total spec + CD stacker	20 miles!	£91,995

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C180 Classic Man Silver, esr, music, alarm	25T	£17,995
C180 Classic Auto White, black cloth, esr, ew, mbsa	3T	£21,995
C180 Classic Man White, esr, ew, alarm	3T	£20,995
C180 Elegance Auto Black esr, ew, esr	12T	£20,995
C200 Elegance Auto Black, esr, thr, lar, ew, alloys	5T	£22,995
C200 Elegance Auto Green Black, srs, esr, ew, alm, cts	3T	£23,495
C220 Elegance Auto White, esr, ew, alloys, thr, alm	6T	£23,995
C220 Sport Auto Brilliant, cc, alloys, esr, ew	11T	£22,995
E200 Auto Blue black, grey, thr, ew, esr	11T	£20,595
E200 SE Auto Blue black, lar, thr, ew, esr	7T	£21,595
E200 SE Auto Azurite blue, thr, lar, ew, esr, ww	7T	£22,495
E200T Auto Azurite blue, esr, ew, rls, ww	4T	£25,495
E220 Auto Onyx grey, esr, ew, lar, rh, ww	22T	£21,995
E220 SE Auto Black black, a/c, rtc, lar, ww, ew	8T	£22,995
E220 SE Auto Azurite blue, a/c, ww, ew, lar, thr	9T	£23,995
E220 Coupe Auto black, w/w esr, ew, alloys	12T	£29,995
280E Auto Pearl blue, esr, ew, lar, a/c, thr, airbag	45T	£22,995
280E Auto Bornite, esr, ew, thr	54T	£18,995
E280 Auto Blue black, lar, thr, ww	6T	£27,995
E280 Auto Azurite, hide, w/w, 8aw, lar, thr	11T	£27,995
300E Auto Beryl, hide, alloys, thr, ew, lar	38T	£17,995
300E Auto Blue black, esr, ew, thr, AMG alloys, lar	28T	£21,995
300CE Blue black, hide, a/c, 8aw, ww	27T	£31,995
E320 Coupe Auto Almandine, hide, a/c, 8aw	19T	£36,995
S420 Brilliant silver, cc, crc, alloys, els, hfg, hrs	19T	£49,995
SL500L Azurite, hide, els + rh, 8aw, clc, rsl	6T	£69,995
SL500 White hide, clc, rgs, 8aw, cd	5T	£66,995
S500C Almandine hide, clc, lar, 8aw	21T	£59,995

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89G	190D 2.5 met, esr, ew, ctl	43T	£12,250
190E	2.6 With Auto met, alloys, ESR	46T	£13,995
94J	190 Diesel 2.0 5 speed, esr, abs, dsl, met	54T	£13,995
94L	C36 AMG met, hide, ww, els, cd, clc, tl, nrr, esr	31T	£38,995
94M	C180 Elegance Auto esr, esr	5T	£17,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto esr, ew, airbag	8T	£18,995
94M	C180 Elegance Auto al, esr, ctl	9T	£20,995
95N	C180 Elegance Auto met, hide, full cocktails lc, alloys	6T	£32,995
95N	C180 Sport Auto met, lar, esr, airbag, rfs, thr, abs	7T	£23,495
94M	C200 Classic Auto met, thr, esr, abs, dsl, lar, airbag	15T	£19,995
94M	C220 Auto esr, abs, airbag, alloys, dsl	12T	£23,495
95M	C250D Classic esr, lar, rtc, rsl, abs, airbag	7T	£20,995
95N	C250D Elegance Auto 8 hole alloys, esr, ew spoiler	10T	£25,995
94L	E220 Auto rls, 15hs, thr, esr, ew, airbag, abs, thr	16T	£21,995
92J	280E Auto met, blew, abs, esr, ew, al, ww, r2	23T	£18,995
95M	E280 Auto met, tpsu,ut, cd, blew, ww, 8h, els	5T	£31,995
92J	300D Auto met, hide, blew, 8 holes	41T	£18,995
92K	300D Auto Ers, cd, rsl, esr, ew, abs	44T	£19,995
95M	E280T Auto met, cls, blew, ctg, esr, alr 2, rsl, ew	7T	£29,995
93K	220TE Auto met, hide, rls, esr, ew, abs, rsl	51T	£26,995
94M	E300T Auto met, rms, rlc, esr, al, cw, airbag x 2, abs	13T	£26,995
92K	320CE Coupe Auto 5spd, met, hide, sfms, lca, esr	44T	£29,995
94L	E320C Coupe Auto met, hide, ac, dachat, elst lcl, alloys	19T	£36,995
94M	E320 Coupe Auto met, esr, 8 holes	11T	£40,995
95K	S280 Auto met, hide, els, 8 holes, 2 x alt, ctr, dsl, blew	7T	£41,995
94L	S320 Auto met, hide, acc, 8 holes, els, rtc, esr, clc	4T	£43,995
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92L	500SEC Auto met, hide acc, els, 8 hole alloys, airbag x 2	35T	£54,995
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94M	E320 Cabriolet Azurite, Mushroom hide + hard top	12T	£49,995
93K	500SL Beryl, mushroom hide, ac, rcs, 8aw	31T	£54,995
95M	C36 Blue/black, black hide, a/c, eds	6T	£47,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto Pearl Blue, Moon Cloth, R/C	23T	£18,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto Smoke silver, grey cloth	20T	£19,995
95M	C180 Classic Man Midnight blue, grey cloth, pab, slc	5T	£17,995
94L	C280 Eleg Auto Silver, grey cloth	18T	£21,995
93L	C220 Eleg Auto Blue black, grey cloth, slc, el	29T	£21,495
95M	C220 Eleg Auto Silver, grey cloth	10T	£23,995
95M	C220 Sport Auto Tourmaline, blew, lar	18T	£23,995
95M	C220 Sport Auto Almandine red, ctg, slc	6T	£28,995
94L	C280 Elegance Auto Nautic, cr hide, 8aw, AMG spoil	11T	£27,995
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92K	190E 1.8 Arctic white, blue cloth, esr	43T	£11,995
91H	190E Auto White, grey cloth, esr, ew	35T	£13,995
92K	190E Auto Silver, black, grey cloth, abs, esr, ew	40T	£14,995
93K	190E Black, grey cloth, abs, ebr, esr	33T	£14,995
95M	E220 Auto Azurite blue, mushroom cloth, ww, rc	11T	£24,995
95M	E220 Cabriolet Azurite, mhoom hide, sportline, eds	4T	£38,995
94M	E220 Coupe White, black cloth, esr	6T	£27,995
94L	E280 Blue black, grey hide, a/c, cc, blew, 8aw	28T	£28,995
94M	E280 Azurite blue, grey cloth, a/c, ww	11T	£28,995
93L	E280 Blue black, grey cloth, air con	37T	£23,495
93L	E280T Almandine red, mush cloth, a/c, rls, ww	46T	£25,995
93K	250D Auto White, black cloth, 8aw, blew, thr	38T	£19,995
95M	E280 Estate Auto Silver, grey cloth, esr, rls, ww	13T	£26,495
89G	230CE Pearl red met, grey cloth, a/c, aw	51T	£17,995
94M	E320 Cabriolet Almandine red, black hide	4T	£49,995
94L	S320 Limousine Silver, black hide, els, 8aw, clear	28T	£49,995
95M	S500 Silver, blue hide, good spec	9T	£61,995
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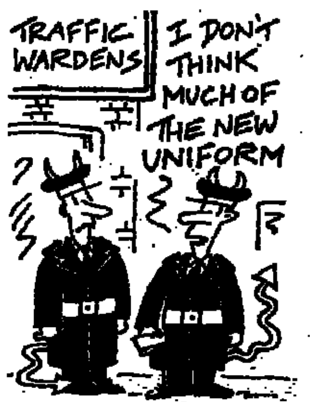
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HENRY KEEPS HEALTHY BY CYCLING INTO THE CITY EVERY DAY

MY LIFE'S AMBITION IS TO CHARGE A PORSCHE

YOUR MASCOT IS INTIMIDATING OTHER DRIVERS, SIR
Haldane

Why does it cost more to repair a Ford than a Jaguar? **Vaughan Freeman** explains a paradox

Drivers can be bad for your company

New figures show that garage bills for a Vauxhall are higher than for a Mercedes — and it costs more to fix a Ford than it does to put a damaged Jaguar back on the road.

An analysis of repairs to company cars that have been in accidents or attacked by vandals also found that owners of Toyota, Mazda and Honda models are likely to find themselves facing average bills up to two-thirds higher than the cheapest-to-repair car, the Volvo.

The study, by leading accident and insurance management company VELO Insurance Services, found that the average Honda repair costs £696, with repairs for a Mazda costing £689, and a Toyota £636. At the other end of the scale, repairs for a Volvo average £416, followed by £442 for a Peugeot, £444 for a Fiat, and £464 for a Rover.

VELO, which deals with 3,000 company car insurance claims a month, also revealed that company car drivers are far and away the most crash-prone on the road, as well as the most careless and thoughtless and the most vulnerable to car crime or opportunist thieves. Phil York, VELO's marketing manager, revealed that some company car drivers submit as many as 10 insurance claims a year.

The research backs recent Department of Transport statistics which found that company car drivers have up to 50 per cent more accidents than private motorists, mile for mile. The department believes up to a third of company driver accidents could be prevented if they took as much care with their firm's car as they did with their own.

"You have to take into account the usage the cars are put to," York says. "For example, it is clearly going to cost less to buy and fit new bits to a Ford Fiesta than for a Jaguar. However, Fords are more likely to be doing much higher mileages than Jaguars, which are usually perk cars, so Fords are more likely to be involved in a more serious accident requiring *extensive repair*. That is why we believe the average repair costs for the Ford are higher.

"As for the higher average costs for the Japanese cars, this is due to the fact that their parts prices are probably higher than for the European cars such as Peugeot, Ford, Rover and Citroën, who are mainstream manufacturers and whose parts are readily available with no particular waiting time."

VELO found that the average cost to insurers of an incident is £528. Top of the cost pile is vehicle theft at £3,419, followed by accident damage at £1,719. Theft from a vehicle averages £323, and vandalism £280.

Company car drivers can do much more to protect themselves, according to York: "There are basic things to avoid like leaving the keys in the ignition while going to pay for the petrol or always parking the car in a dark and gloomy street. The key issue here is accountability. We are trying to instil greater responsibility. One way, which some firms are already using, is to levy an excess charge so that their drivers must pay the first £50, £100 or £150 of any claim resulting from an incident. If the driver reports two incidents in a year, then the excess rises.

"Clearly driver training is also very important. Not every company car driver needs to undergo such training, however. We estimate that just 20 per cent of them are involved in 80 per cent of the incidents that lead to insurance claims."

By targeting and training that 20 per cent, says York, drivers and other road users can not only be made a lot safer, but insurance claims — and the cost of premiums for their firms — can be drastically reduced.

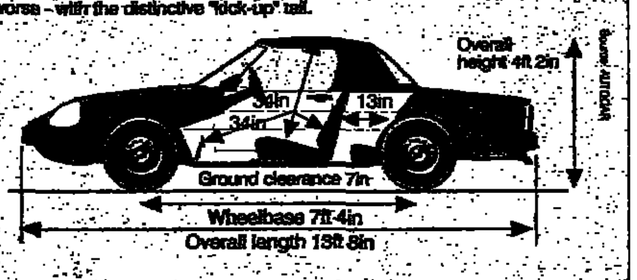
Average insurance repair costs:

Volvo	*£416*
Peugeot	*£442*
Fiat	*£444*
Rover	*£464*
Citroën	*£476*
Jaguar	*£497*
Vauxhall	*£524*
Land/Range Rover	*£528*
Mercedes	*£544*
Ford	*£551*
Nissan	*£564*
Audi	*£571*
Volkswagen	*£576*
BMW	*£605*
Saab	*£608*
Toyota	*£636*
Mazda	*£689*
Honda	*£696*

USED CAR BRIEF

ALFA ROMEO SPIDER

It was Dustin Hoffman's ever-more desperate driving in his Spider in the film The Graduate that impressed forever on the public mind the Alfa Romeo two-seat, two-door, drop-top sports car as a classic. The Spider's lovely Pininfarina design was hardly bettered by any rival in its 30 year history, until the car went out of production in 1993. Launched in the mid 1960s with 1.6 and then 1.75 litre engines, the two-litre 132bhp Graduate car arrived in 1970. The looks were revised in 1990 - some say for the worse - with the distinctive "kick-up" tail.



GOOD NEWS: The Spider looks absolutely ravishing, and the four-cylinder, two-litre engine sounds just as seductive and sexy. Cars available range from the thoroughly modern post-1990 models to examples from the 1970s and 80s that are best suited to enthusiasts who have time and money.

BAD NEWS: Few survive from the 1960s and early 1970s, as most have been claimed by the great enemy of Italian cars from that era-rust. A bad Spider will bring as much grief as a good one will pleasure. Expert guidance should be sought. The soft-top hoods can leak and fade so check thoroughly.

SAFETY: Sports steering wheels lack airbags, and the fragile looks that make the Spider so attractive are a far cry from the boxy girder-like dimensions that speak of "safety" on bigger saloons. However, excellent all-round vision with the hood down means hazards ahead, or behind, are easily spotted.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) clutch assembly £280; full exhaust £220; front damper £52; rear damper £47; front brakepads £50; alternator (exchange) £260; starter motor £125; tyre £65.

PRICES: Expect to pay from £6,500 for a mid-1980s car, around £7,700 for a 1990 H-reg Spider, £9,250 for a 1991 J-reg, £11,000 for a 92 K-reg, and from £12,000 to £14,000 for a 1993 K-reg car.

LOOK FOR: Cars from the 1980s, unless you are prepared to pay a premium for an immaculate 1970s car that has been cosseted. Check for rust bubbles on paintwork, and rust along door bottoms, sills and floorpan. Check aluminium engine for blown head gasket, engine oil leaks and worn front suspension.

AVOID: Cars that were imported without official sanction by Alfa and which could well have been less than perfectly converted from original left to right hand drive. Seek out instead RHD examples that were converted by sanctioned specialists, like Bell and Colvill in Surrey.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1990 Alfa Romeo 2.0, costs a 55-year-old professional male, living in Winchester, with full no claims bonus, £1,415 a year fully comprehensive, while a similar female pays £944. A 22-year-old male living in south London with one year no claims pays £1,913, a similar female £1,783.

OVERALL: From 1978, official Alfa Romeo right-hand drive imports ceased. So LHD cars were converted. Left-hand drive examples also started to arrive from America (watch out for ugly black rubber bumper over-riders). However, left-hand drive on the Spider is not such an impossible option, and certainly makes touring the French Riviera a lot easier.

50 POPULAR SELLERS

MODEL	PRICE Dec-95	PRICE Jan-96	Chge
Audi 80 2.0E 4dr	12750	12950	1.56
BMW 316i auto 4dr	14250	14395	1.01
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Citroën Xantia 2.0iLX 5dr	9150	9225	0.81
Citroën XM 2.0VSX Turbo 5dr	12750	13095	2.70
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	11095	11150	0.49
Fiat Cinquecento SX 3dr	4175	4250	1.79
Ford Fiesta 1.1i LX 3dr	6150	5995	-2.52
Ford Escort 1.6i LX 5dr	8095	8095	0.00
Ford Mondeo 1.8i LX 4dr	8250	8175	-0.90
Ford Granada 2.0i Ghia 4dr	11650	11850	1.71
Honda Civic LSi 3dr	9295	9550	2.74
Honda Accord 2.0i ES 4dr	14250	14650	2.73
Isuzu Trooper 3.1 Turbo Citation	19150	19550	2.08
Jaguar XJ6 3.2 auto	19750	19950	1.01
Kia Pride 1.3LX 5dr	4850	.4850	0.00
Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8i 3dr	15895	15595	-1.88
Land Rover Discovery 300 TDi 5dr	17850	17450	-2.24
Range Rover Vogue SE auto 4dr	27000	27500	1.85
Lexus LS400 auto 4dr	34000	34500	1.44
Mazda 323 1.6iGLX Fastback	9850	9950	1.01
Mazda MX5 1.8i	12995	13095	0.76
Mercedes-Benz C180 Elegance auto	19495	19795	1.53
Mitsubishi Shogun diesel 5dr	20500	21000	2.43
Nissan 1.0LX 3dr	6150	6195	0.73
Nissan Primera 1.6iSLX 5dr	9095	9095	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.1iXR 3dr	6150	6175	0.40
Peugeot 306 1.4XR 5dr	8675	8850	2.01
Proton Persona 1.5GLi 5dr	7195	7425	3.19
Renault Clio 1.2RL Prima 3dr	5725	5725	0.00
Renault Laguna 2.0RT	10450	10650	1.91
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4475	4450	0.55
Rover 214Si	7625	7750	1.63
Rover 820Si 4dr	12095	11795	-2.48
Saab 9000CSi 2.0 5dr	16095	16295	1.24
Seat Ibiza 1.4CLX 5dr	6895	7095	2.90
Toyota Corolla 1.3GLi 3dr	8325	8325	0.00
Toyota Carina E 1.6XLi	9095	8950	-1.59
Toyota MR2 GT	16895	17195	1.77
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2LS 3dr	6325	6350	0.39
Vauxhall Astra 1.4LS (82ps) 5dr	7875	7595	-3.55
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8i LS 5dr	8495	8495	0.00
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i 16V GLS 4dr	13250	13295	0.33
Volkswagen Golf 1.6CL 5dr	8825	8925	1.13
Volkswagen Passat 1.8CL 4dr	9525	9695	1.78
Volvo 440 1.8Li 5dr	7775	7975	2.50
Volvo 940S 2.0 4dr	12795	12795	0.00
Mercedes-Benz S320 auto	43250	43750	1.15
Ford Probe 2.0i 16V	11950	12095	1.21
Subaru Impreza 2000 estate	15295	15650	2.32

CAP MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

*Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg. low mileage cars. Figures supplied by **CAP Motor Research**.*

ARTHUR DALEY would be perplexed: the computer age has moved on to the second-hand forecourt. BMW has set up its own communications channel that will give customers prices, specifications and availability of the complete model range.

Showroom visitors will also be able to plug into the channel (http://www.bmw.co.uk) to trace the used car they are seeking. Would-be buyers will punch in details of the model they want, from price to engine size and specifications, and get a rundown of where there is a car on a forecourt waiting for them.

Meanwhile, Vauxhall has linked up with Trafficmaster, the route information business, to provide up-to-the-minute guidance on motorway jams. Trafficmaster has monitors along motorways which detect when traffic has stopped. By plugging into the Vauxhall Internet site (http://www.vauxhall.co.uk), drivers can travel forewarned of where they could face delays.

PORSCHE

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944 Auto 87 PAS ABS a/c half leather FSH 68k alarm £7,995 Cottage Cars 01202 871225

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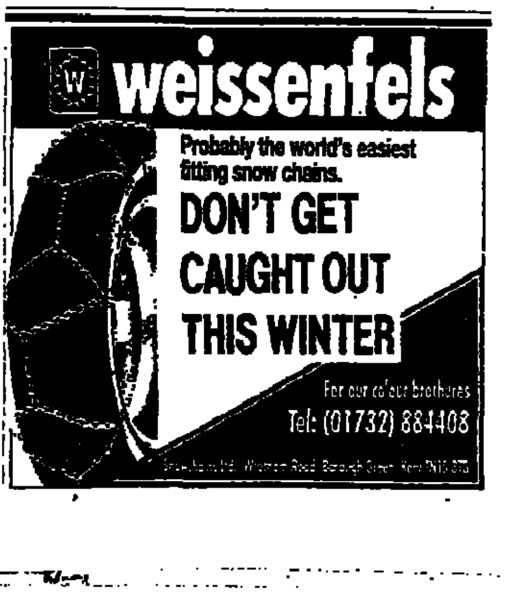

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Mary Tamm began travelling in a Mini and ended up in the Tardis. **Eithne Power** reports

Who's that high-speed girl?

STEERING COLUMN

Mary Tamm, half White Russian, half Estonian, born in Bradford, came into her own 17 years ago as Dr Who's dynamic assistant, Romana. Since then, she has worked constantly (most recently in *Brookside*), married a working Lloyd's name, sold houses to pay off Lloyd's and taken the Formula Ford drivers' course at Brands Hatch. It must have been all that travelling in time that gave her a taste for speed.

One of the reasons she gave it up was that she had absolutely no fear behind the wheel and was probably a bit reckless; she admits it never entered her head that she might get killed.

How did you learn to drive?

With a one-man driving school and a lot of pent-up longing in my mid-twenties. At home in Bradford we didn't have a car, and I was constantly standing at bus stops vowing, one day, one day I'll learn to drive and I'll be free.

What was your first car?

A green Mini that I bought for £200 from a friend of a friend of a friend who had a friend, a mechanic, who told me it was a sound machine — even though it had four bald tyres that escaped my notice at the time. After that I had four more Minis in different colours before graduating to a Mercedes! The day after I passed my test, I drove on the motorway to Manchester in that first Mini, dripping blood after having had a tooth out. I drove with one hand, drugged to the eyeballs and mopped up the blood with the other.

What car do you drive now?

My husband's BMW, and my own wonderful little Triumph Acclaim. It's a great little runaround — I'm teaching my daughter, Lauren, to drive in it. We use a disused airfield, and we're extremely decorous!

Do you enjoy driving?

Does a fish enjoy swimming? I adore it, maybe because I came to it so late. As a girl, I was always sort of stuck. I haunted bus shelters. Now that I can go where I want when I want, I'm like Toad of Toad Hall. I sometimes feel incredibly happy driving in the country. Guns 'n' Roses blasting away on the stereo or *Carmina Burana*. Carl Orff conjures up visions of men and horses and armour and stuff like that … the simple pleasures of life.

What is your dream car?

An Aston Martin Volante. I like a car that goes from zero to 60 in three seconds. There's a kind of ecstasy when you're going at speed, it's probably to do with the urge to escape.

What is your most hated car?

The Ford Sierra. Every time someone cuts me up, it's inevitably a man in a Ford Sierra. The Sierra pretends to be sporty, but it just can't deliver.

What is your worst habit in a car?

Swearing at men in Ford Sierras and making absolutely hideous faces at myself in the driving mirror. I pull my lips right up over the gums so that I look like a lipless toothead. A jogger spotted me the other day at traffic lights and clutched his heart in terror. My facial aerobics make me feel good, but they're pretty horrible for onlookers.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

People who dawdle around in the outside lane at 80, 90 or 100 — mostly they are driving Ford Sierras.

What is the most unusual thing you've done in your car?

I managed to park about 18cms from the kerb when the steering wheel came off in my hands on the A40 while I was going to a *Dr Who* rehearsal. I had to do everything simultaneously, brakes, handbrake, gears. I didn't panic. I'm good in a crisis; just as well, because I had a lot in those Minis.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

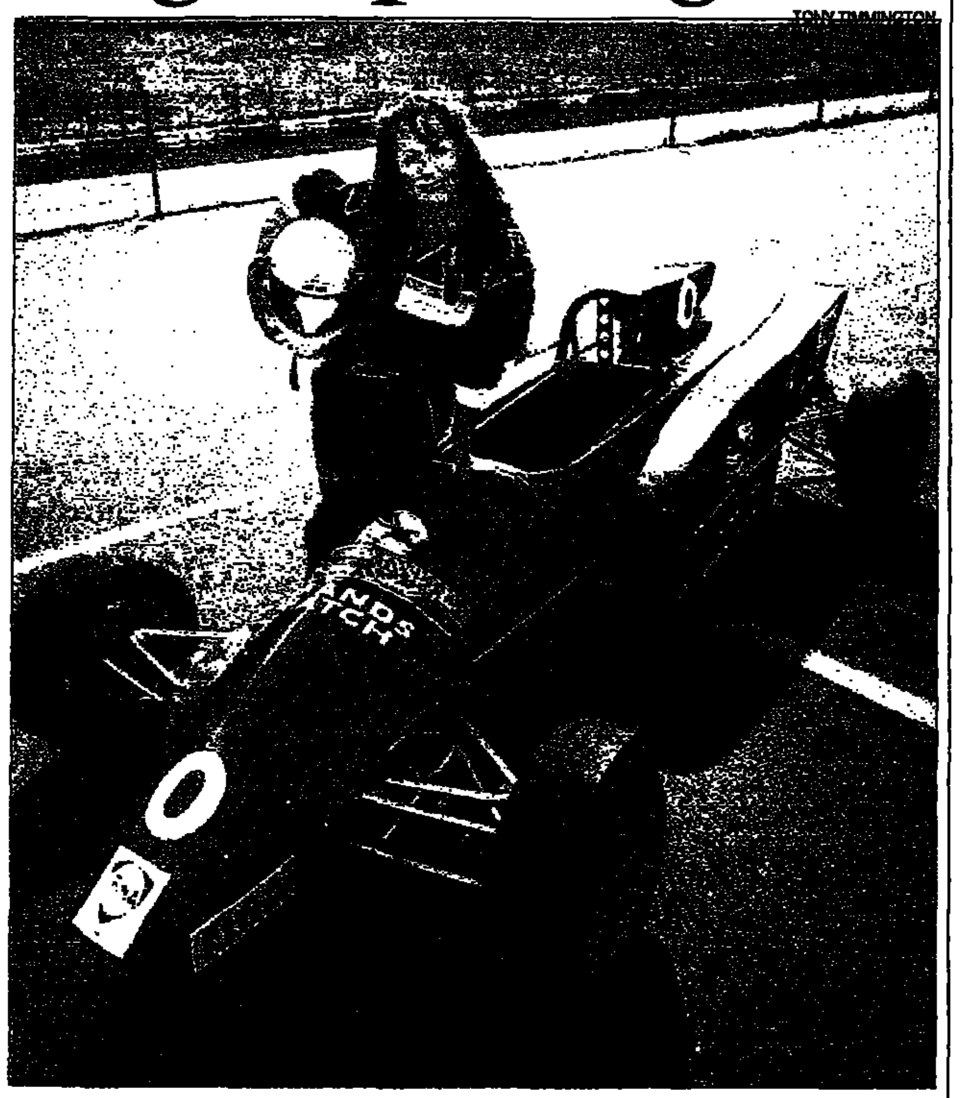
Yes, but not for speeding, as one might expect. I went over a double white line five years ago and got an endorsement.

What would you do if you became Secretary of State for Transport?

What they do in Amsterdam and fine everyone driving alone into the city centre. It seems to work there. And again, like in Holland, I'd introduce bicycle paths. I've got a bike myself, but knowing there are other drivers out there like me I am afraid to ride it.

What safety precautions do you take as a woman driver?

Most of the dangers I run I provoke myself by cutting other drivers up. But I always lock my doors and find that picking up the mobile phone sees them off quite quickly.


TONY TIMMINGTON

Mary Tamm: tearing round Brands Hatch, the thought of being killed never occurred to her

---

Alan Copps on the Cadillac-Chrysler crossover

Battle of the Atlantic on four wheels

A top-of-the-range version of the Vauxhall Omega is to go on sale in the United States later this year as the Cadillac Catera. It is expected to cost almost a third less than the most upmarket model available in Europe, despite boasting a range of sophisticated equipment regarded as essential in the American luxury car market.

The German-built Catera will be the smallest and cheapest model available from General Motors' flagship Cadillac division and will provide the company with a much-needed entry-level car to compete with imports such as the Mercedes C280, BMW 325i and Lexus ES300. It is expected to cost about $33,000 (£22,000). A fully-equipped 3-litre Omega in Britain costs close to £29,000.

The Catera will use the 200 brake horse power, 3-litre V6 engine built at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire and Cadillac is forecasting sales of 25,000 for 1997, its first full year of production.

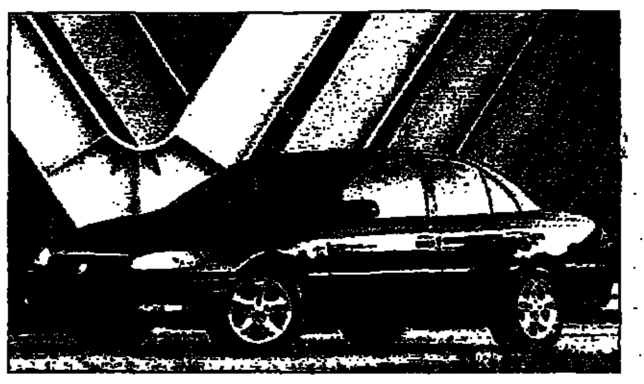
The Catera, which will not be available in Europe, strongly resembles the Opel/Vauxhall Omega and will be built alongside it at Rüsselsheim, but it will feature styling changes at the front and rear and the interior will include a new instrument panel and centre console complete with fold-out cupholders. The car will have remote keyless entry, power seats and automatic climate control. The engine will be tuned to cope with American driving conditions and meet stringent environmental standards. It will run on Goodyear all-season tyres.

Chrysler is making a transatlantic move in the opposite direction. With a full-scale assault on the European market due later this year, it is to import the Chrysler New Yorker into Britain. Available by special order in left-hand-drive only and costing £33,600, it also features a V6 engine of 3.5 litres giving 211bhp. The company believes the car will meet a growing demand for American-style transport in this country.

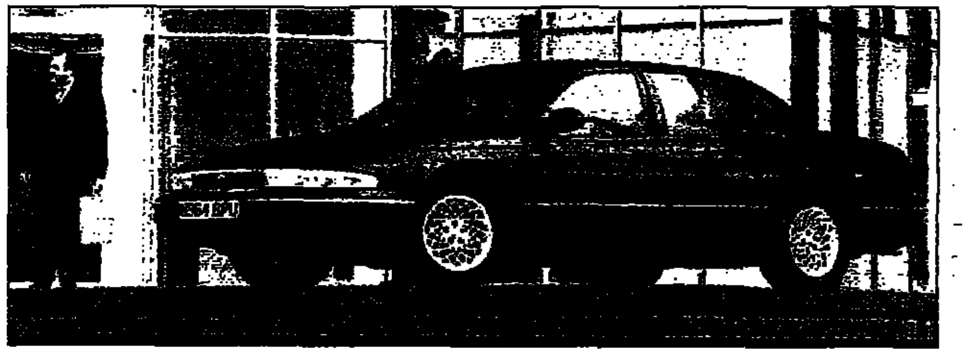
The most interesting feature of the New Yorker is its Auto-Stick transmission, which allows a choice between fully automatic or manual gear changing. The lever has all the usual automatic positions, but below the lowest ratio there is a gate with two apertures which the driver can use to override the automatic and make manual changes as with a sequential box, move the lever left to change up and right to change down.

"The New Yorker is a strikingly good-looking vehicle which pampers its occupants in true luxury. We know it will fill the niche in the market left by the disappearance of traditional British limousines," says Richard Mackay Chrysler UK's managing director. "However, it's not just a car to be driven in. With its powerful 3.5-litre engine, European-tuned suspension and the revolutionary *Auto-Stick* transmission, the New Yorker is also a great driver's car."

Standard equipment includes automatic temperature control, cruise control, power seats, traction control, electrically adjustable and heated mirrors, anti-lock braking, remote power-levelling headlamps and a trip computer.



Cadillac Catera: packed with US-style motoring luxury



The New Yorker: to fill a niche left by the disappearance of traditional British limousines

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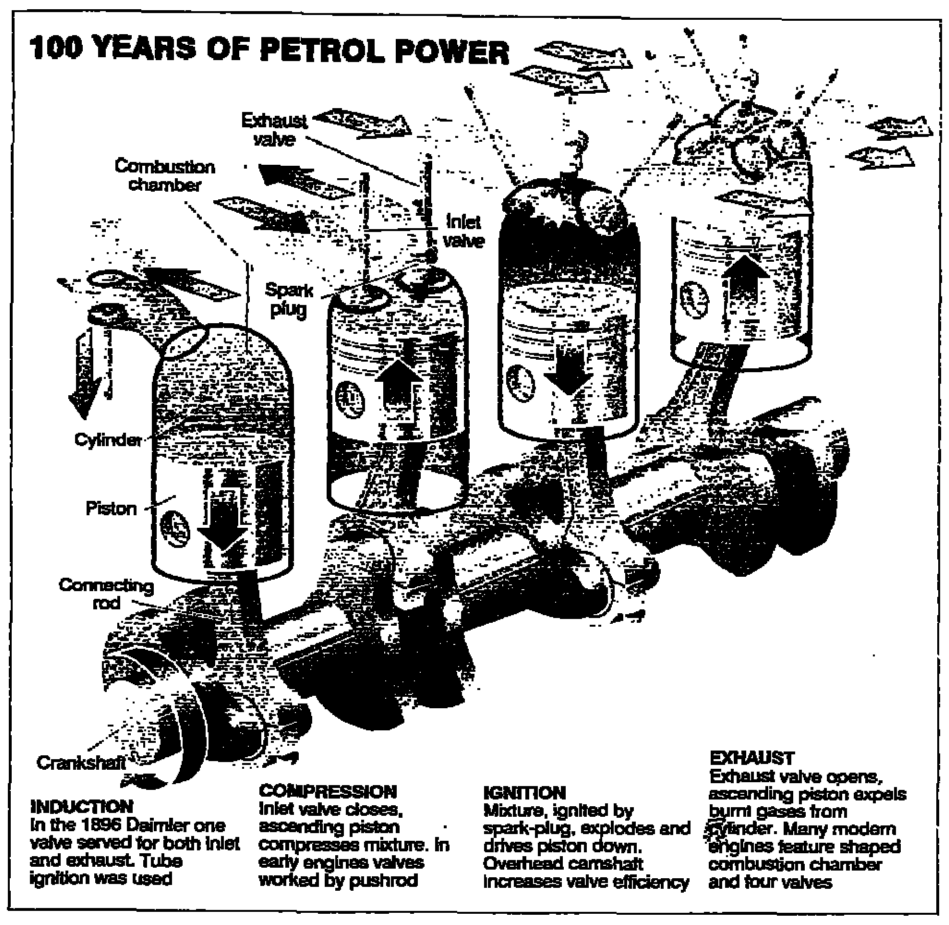
As manufacturers experiment with gas and electricity, **Kevin Eason** feels the traditional internal combustion engine will be around for a long time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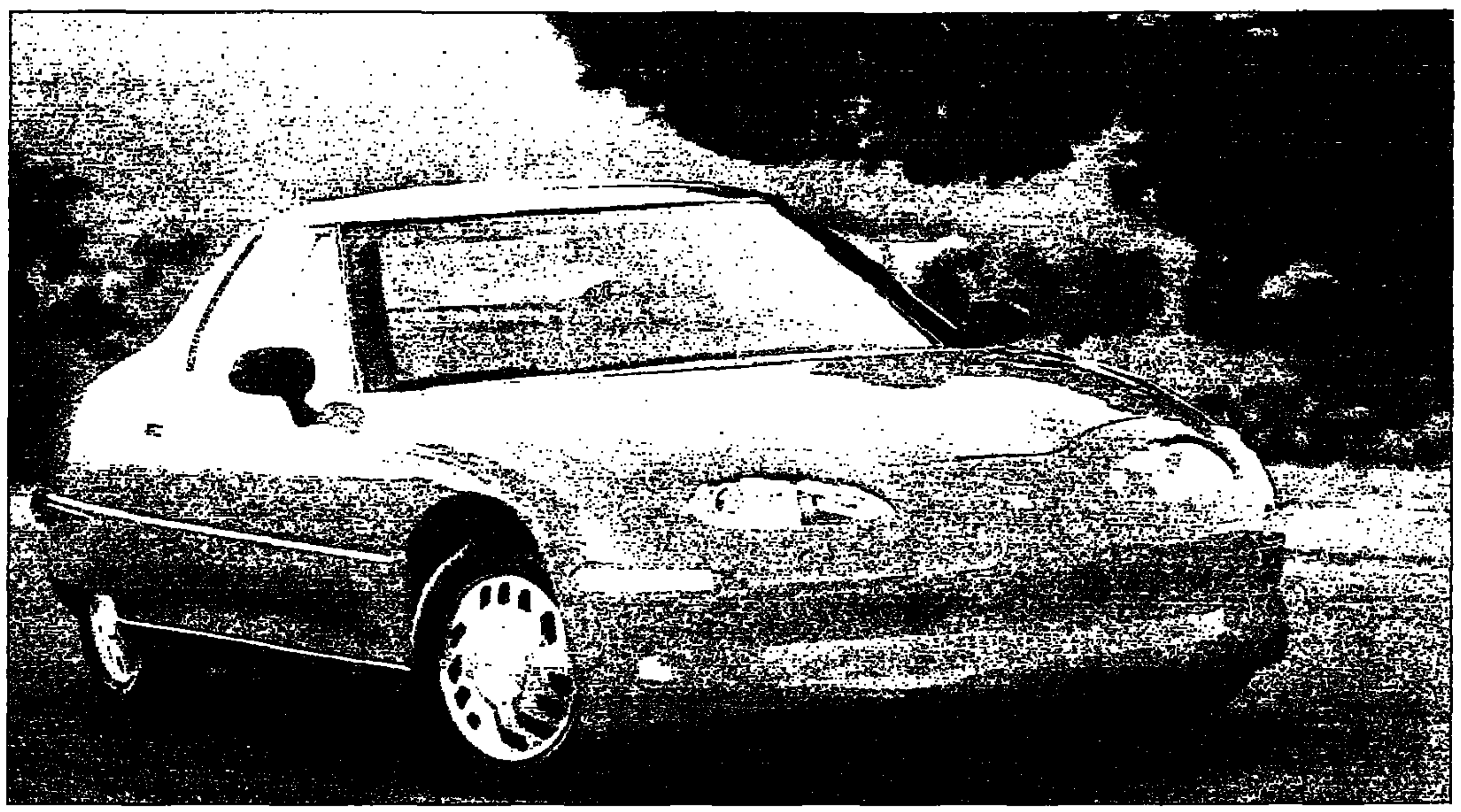
EXHAUST
Exhaust valve opens, ascending piston expels burnt gases from cylinder. Many modern engines feature shaped combustion chamber and four valves


General Motors' EV1: complete with everything we expect in a car, but battery-driven with a range of up to 90 miles and a three-hour recharging period

Will a car ever get us there without petrol?

The start of the second century of the motor car could be marked by a switch to alternative fuels that will make their debut in road cars for the first time this year.

Volvo, BMW and General Motors all announced this week that they would be producing cars capable of using alternative fuels — Volvo and BMW opting for gas and GM putting a purpose-built electric car on sale for the first time.

Although sales of the "new fuel" models will barely make a dent in the huge numbers of petrol and diesel-driven cars, they are a turn of the wheel in the direction of a future that promises cleaner air.

When Karl Benz chugged around the streets of Mannheim 112 years ago, his two-seater tricycle was powered by a wheezing internal combustion engine. Despite the sophistication of the modern engine, Benz would have little difficulty in recognising the principles behind the modern engines for they are the same as they ever were: suck, squeeze, bang and blow.

Engines suck in air and petrol, squeeze them in a cylinder, explode them to fire the piston with enough force to power a crankshaft, then blow waste gases out of the tailpipe.

Petrol and diesel have been the staple diet of the motor car throughout the last 100 years. Fuel injection has largely replaced the carburettor as a more efficient way of feeding the fuel in, multi-valve arrangements and overhead camshafts have increased the efficiency of the sucking and blowing, balanced crankshafts and shaped pistons make the squeezing more effective and catalysers and silencers limit the environmental impact of the explosion and exhaust.

In advanced engines, the whole process is now carefully managed by microchips, but more radical changes are on the way.

Volvo will have a gas-powered version of its 850 saloons and estates in showrooms by the summer. The Bi-fuel 850s are the same as the factory-built petrol cars but have modifications to allow them to take gas from a cylinder, holding the equivalent of 4.5 gallons of gas, stored behind the rear seats.

The 2.5-litre engines can run on petrol, but switch to gas power at the push of a button on the dashboard. That gives the bonus of an extra 150 miles travelling distance from the boot-mounted tank, but the idea is to go with gas in town to cut down on toxic exhaust emissions.

Tailpipe emissions from an 850 using gas are only a tenth of the stringent limits set in Sweden: output of unburnt hydrocarbons is 80 per cent lower, carbon monoxide 77 per cent lower, nitrogen oxide 20 per cent lower and carbon dioxide 20 per cent lower.

Gas power is also two to three per cent more economical than petrol, while compressed natural gas sells for an equivalent 39p a litre (£1.77 a gallon). However, there is a downside: power falls by about 10 per cent, refuelling pumps, although easy to use, are hard to find at the moment — and the cars will cost an extra £3,000.

BMW is limiting the sale of its 316 and 518 gas variants to Germany unless the Government makes some concessions to gas users in this country.

In any event, the company says it is only a step on the road towards eventually using hydrogen to power cars. The technology is already there but supplying, distributing and storing liquefied hydrogen is a little tricky.

Meanwhile, GM has surged ahead with an electric car, in spite of the gloom-and-doom merchants who say it will never take off because of the limits imposed by batteries unable to offer high mileage at high power in the way that petrol can.

Astonishingly, the company first produced an electric truck in 1912. That model went out of production in 1916 and electric propulsion was not revived until 1964, since when a series of experimental vehicles has been produced.

The two-seater EV1 will go on sale on America's West Coast and will have everything we expect from a car: dual airbags, anti-lock brakes, compact disc player and cruise control.

GM first made an electric truck in 1912

Designed from Impact, the concept version shown five years ago, the £22,000 teardrop-shaped car will have a range of between 70 and 90 miles with a recharging period of around three hours. A battery charger comes at an extra leasing cost. Using 26 12-volt batteries to produce a power equivalent of around 137 horsepower, the EV1 is front-wheel-drive.

But, for now, the good old internal combustion engine will keep most of us on the road. Rover launched its latest power pack — a V6 version of its successful K-series engines — at the Brussels Motor Show this week. Even though the principles are a century old, Rover would claim that the K-series takes the process on several sophisticated steps.

The new 2.5-litre V6 will replace the 2.7-litre Honda engine the British company has been using in its upmarket 800-series saloons and hatchbacks for the past few years.

Although the K-series is slightly smaller in capacity, it is 28kgs lighter at 152kgs — and, according to Rover's figures, more powerful and economical. The KV6 yields 176Ps at 6,500rpm compared with 169Ps for the Honda 2.7 at 5,900rpm, while composite fuel figures show the KV6 returning 33.4 miles to the gallon of unleaded on manual transmission cars against the 29mpg the Honda unit offered.

This new V6 uses the same technology which has been much acclaimed in the latest Rover products, the MGF and Rover 400 and 200 series. It has the same aluminium-alloy construction, lightweight pistons, valve-train layout and similar closely spaced cylinders. The whole unit is managed by an electronic control unit with the computing power to adjust fuel input to compensate for wear and tear throughout the life of the vehicle.

Rover has introduced a new automatic transmission unit at the same time, and the control unit for this is linked with the engine control unit. The result is that at 70mph the KV6 automatic engine is turning over at 2,500rpm against nearly 3,300rpm for the previous combination.

The company's efforts are part of the crescendo of development of the petrol engine, thanks to the introduction of better engineering and more ingenious electronics. But the climax has yet to be reached at a time when consumer and environmental groups are clamouring for cars that will not pump out polluting gases into the atmospheres of our towns and cities.

That means there must be a major departure in the way that cars are powered if there is to be a second century of unrestricted freedom of personal transport.

Citroën's Xantia Activa enables **Helen Mound** to stay on the level

Masterpiece of suspension

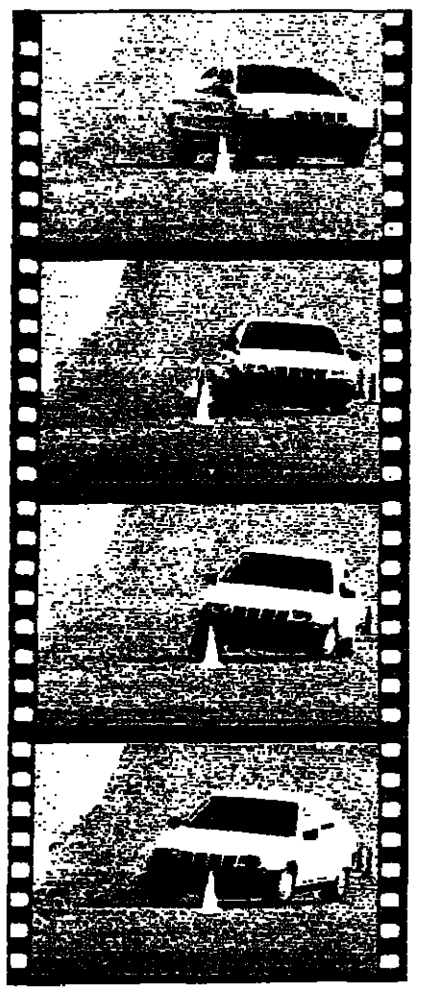
Nothing is worse than spending a Saturday morning mopping out the back of the car just because your over-zealous driving doesn't mix well with a bootload of groceries.

Leaving the supermarket car park frustrated by squabbling families and the fact that even at 10am there's no bread on the shelves, I take it out on the car, hurling it into every available bend and junction. By the time I reach home, the boot contains a congealed mess of eggs, fruit juice and dog biscuits that was once a neatly stacked line of grocery bags.

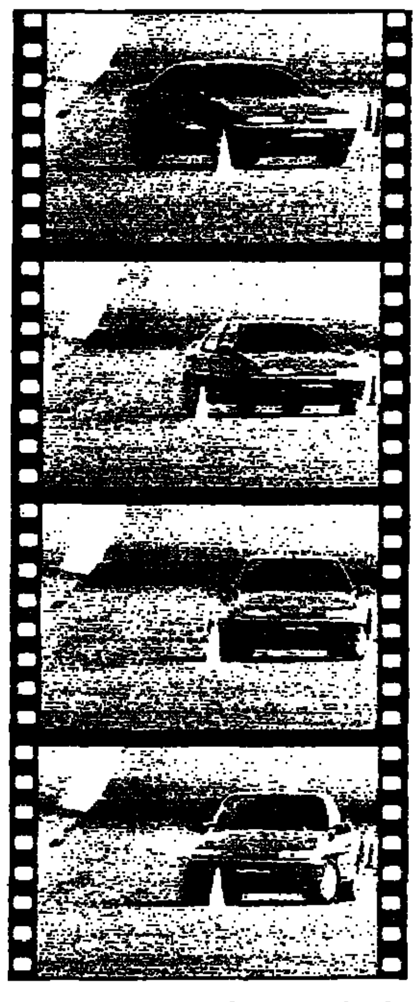
Even if I decide to take it easy all the way home, most cars I drive present my shopping to me as if the "boot gremlins" have been playing badminton back there. Oh, for a car that doesn't roll passengers and bags from side to side; a car that doesn't lean or lurch around bends.

The Citroën Xantia Activa is such a car; the world's first production car with Active Roll Control suspension, which means it does not lean into corners, slump back to an even keel when it straightens up or roll from side to side through a series of bends. The Activa stays flat and balanced at every turn. And I can report that it passes the grocery test. Six carrier bags, lined up from one side of the boot to the other, did not topple over, slide around or empty themselves, despite a severe ten-mile thrashing from supermarket to home.

CONVENTIONALLY SPRUNG CAR



WITH ACTIVE ROLL CONTROL SYSTEM



Other drivers are startled by the sight of the new Xantia Activa tackling roundabouts and bends at speed. A car travelling fast with no body roll not only feels strange inside, it looks curious and unnatural from the outside. Under extreme conditions it's particularly striking: flat-out on a wide slalom, the Activa looks as level as it would if it were moving in a straight line.

Active Roll Control suspension is not new — Formula One race cars have had from it for some time — but it's an extraordinary sensation in an executive hatchback.

In eliminating body roll for the new flagship Xantia, Citroën was looking to produce an executive car with improved comfort, performance and, above all, safety: even if you don't understand Active Roll Control suspension, you'll probably notice the latter first. Potentially dangerous situations such as braking in a corner or steering while panic braking are far safer, because the car is evenly balanced and consistently level.

With all four wheels firmly on the ground at all times, the opportunity to correct driver error without losing control is greater. On roundabouts, any ordinary car will lean away from the centre — done at speed it will eventually break away as either the front or rear end loses grip. But a Xantia Activa can handle the tightest circles, remaining flat and balanced, even at speed. The "Hydractive II" suspension already supplies the standard Xantia with one of the smoothest rides in its class and Activa takes it a step forward.

In most cases an anti-roll bar is anchored to the car's body in the middle with a suspension arm at both ends. On the Activa, at one end of the unusually thick anti-roll bars, the suspension arm is connected by a gas-filled sphere, providing a cushioning effect when the car is travelling in a straight line.

There are two stages: enter a corner, and the sensors (for steering wheel angle, rate of rotation and road speed — already in place for the "Hydractive II" suspension) isolate the spheres via an electronic control unit, reducing their cushioning influence, resulting in a stiffer effect from the thick anti-roll bars. As the Activa leaves a bend, the spheres are reconnected and the anti-roll bars cushioned again.

The second stage is for sharper bends, triggered when the forces are so great that stiff anti-roll bars are insufficient to prevent leaning. Hydraulic rams on the anti-roll bars force the car upright and level when the body roll attempts to exceed half a degree.

While costing £1,000 more than the previous top Xantia, the Activa is the only model to benefit from the new suspension, new turbo-charged engine and a unique bodykit. Citroën claims the new suspension was inexpensive to develop, adding less than 5 per cent to the cost of the car, which may mean the next generation XM (the company's large executive saloon) will also benefit from the system.

Price: £18,480. Engine: 1998cc turbocharged. Transmission: 5-speed manual. Performance: max speed 132mph, 0-60mph 8.9 seconds. Economy: urban cycle 22.6mpg.

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Being macho in the mud

Guy Walters watches British hopefuls battle with nature to compete for the Camel Trophy

DAVID HOWELLS

In the rough: the marshals were looking for, if not fitness, then a high level of determination and willingness that will be needed in Kalimantan

Many have heard of the Camel Trophy, but few can define it. Some think it an ingenious form of tobacco peddling, some a holiday, some a race, and a few merely an excuse for Mark Thatcher clones to make their mothers anxious.

The Camel Trophy is more a straightforward annual adventure, in which a convoy of Land Rovers lock their differentials across the most unappealing terrain on the planet. As if that wasn't enough, the participants have to complete "special tasks", such as building bridges and canoeing, in which their competence and team spirit is assessed.

This year the event is being held in April in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. The 40 participants, representing 20 countries, have 22 days to follow a 620-mile route across the island. "Route" is perhaps the wrong word, because much of it is uncharted, flooded and overgrown, and the teams will need to push themselves and their vehicles to the point of collapse if they are to complete the challenge. The three weeks will be long, punishing, hectic and very, very wet.

The first selection was held last weekend near Hay-on-Wye, a town known more for second-hand books than wrenching Discoveries and Defenders around hillsides coated in the deepest and gloopiest mud. The aim was to whittle more than 100 British entrants down to ten. It was a painful process.

The entrants arrived at Sam on Saturday, a tracksuited mob, mostly men in their mid-twenties, bristling with the early morning testosterone required to put their frames through a weekend's hell. Their first task was to run up a muddy hillside, carrying barrels, logs and wheels — a task that even most cars would baulk at.

Their progress was monitored by the notepad-clutching marshals, many of whom had been on the trophy before. Their faces bore the expressions of boys who have just started their second year at school, revelling in a smug superiority based on the arrival of fresh-faced Camel neophytes.

Some hopefuls failed a few yards into the run. "He's simply not fit enough," said one marshal, giggling at a rather overweight fellow whose build screamed out one pizza too many. A few were the subjects of much praise and ticking in notepads — "Look at that one, he's even running back down to fetch more gear." The marshals were looking for, if not fitness, then a high level of determination and willingness. That one of the women was unsuitably clad in fake tan and purple lipstick was not necessarily detrimental.

Natural leaders were coming to the fore

Such qualities were also monitored in the Finesse Driving stage, in which Honda Pilots had to be guided around a course of cones as smoothly and quickly as possible. Some, desperate to impress, found themselves knocking down a motorway's worth of cones, and notching up some crosses.

The next part of the Finesse Driving was what many had come for — off-roading in Discoveries. This was deep end stuff: the course was steep, curvaceous and treacherously muddy. It was like driving through a giant trifle. Most entrants had had little experience, but Steve Vaughan, one of the Land Rover instructors, found that preferable. "We like it if someone doesn't know everything," he said. "Then we can mould them to how we like them. Sometimes you get farmers' sons who have tons of experience but some terrible habits."

Sitting with some of the entrants was a frightening experience, especially when slithering down one-in-four inclines, when only the ground is visible through the windscreen. Most fared capably, although the Discoveries suffered many a dent, nick, bump and scrape. This was not a good place to be a tree.

At the day's end, 40 were lucky enough to be asked to remain for Sunday. However, their fortune was paltry. They had to sleep outdoors, and throughout the night were summoned to go on runs, perform exercises, and — the most painful of all — dragging a "defunct" Land Rover along the course. What the entrants didn't know was that the marshal resolutely kept his foot on the brakes to make life considerably more muscle-ripping. The language was fouler than the mud.

Sunday saw an increase in the complexity of challenges. The most arresting was the construction of a bridge out of trees, an essential skill for the ten river crossings that the Kalimantan journey involves. By this stage, natural leaders were coming to the fore, although one rather didactic and loud-mouthed entrant was beginning to cause strain among his muddied and sodden peers. One of the marshals was heard saying, "If he comes along, it will be over my dead body."

The final ten were chosen with difficulty, and despite the marshals' denials that they were chosen for their looks, all displayed the requisite "Camel Man" appeal that works so well in adverts for indestructible watches. All they needed was a bath.

Uphill work: the language was often fouler than the mud

DR DASHBOARD

Good reasons to give thanks

Q **I'm baffled by this "Lady Godiva" business at Coventry cathedral. Was the protest justified?**

A We doctors are used to seeing people take their clothes off, of course, but it's difficult to see the logic of that particular protest. Where better to celebrate the motor industry than Coventry.

Q ***Why does the industry deserve a blessing?***

A I just can't resist that dreadful pun used by one of the Coventry clergy about the "Car vest Festival". Since 1896, when the first Daimler was made there, 127 different kinds of car have been manufactured in the city, providing employment for thousands. The car is literally the fruit of their labour.

Q **But most of those makes went out of business long ago. Is making cars still important?**

A There are still major manufacturers based there. The majority of Peugeot's 5,400 workers are in Coventry, and Jaguar employs 6,000. At the last census in 1991, the city had a population of 295,000 and 18,456 of them were directly employed in the motor industry. In 1956 when the population was 267,000 the industry employed 42,080.

Q **Doesn't that last figure just show the decline of Britain's motor industry?**

A No one would deny that it has had its problems, but it remains one of the biggest manufacturing businesses in the country. 800,000 jobs depend upon it. Its export record is excellent: in 1986 we produced 1.019 million cars and exported just 188,000 of them, last year we made 1.53 million and exported 740,000, or 48 per cent.

Q **What does it mean in terms of money?**

A In 1994, according to Customs and Excise figures, we exported vehicles worth a record £12.8bn. Last year Jaguar exports alone amounted to more than £1billion, Land Rover sent more than 80 per cent of its production abroad.

Q **But what about deaths on the road and all that pollution?**

A The number of people killed on Britain's roads in 1994 was 3,650, the lowest since records began in the 1920s. The carmakers are spending huge sums on safety and anti-pollution measures.

Q **So what would the doctor say is the chief benefit of the car?**

A Personal mobility. One of my patients told me this week that he was going to join the Newbury by-pass protesters. "How will you get there?" I asked. "I'll go in the Jag, of course," he replied.

A COVENTRY DIARY

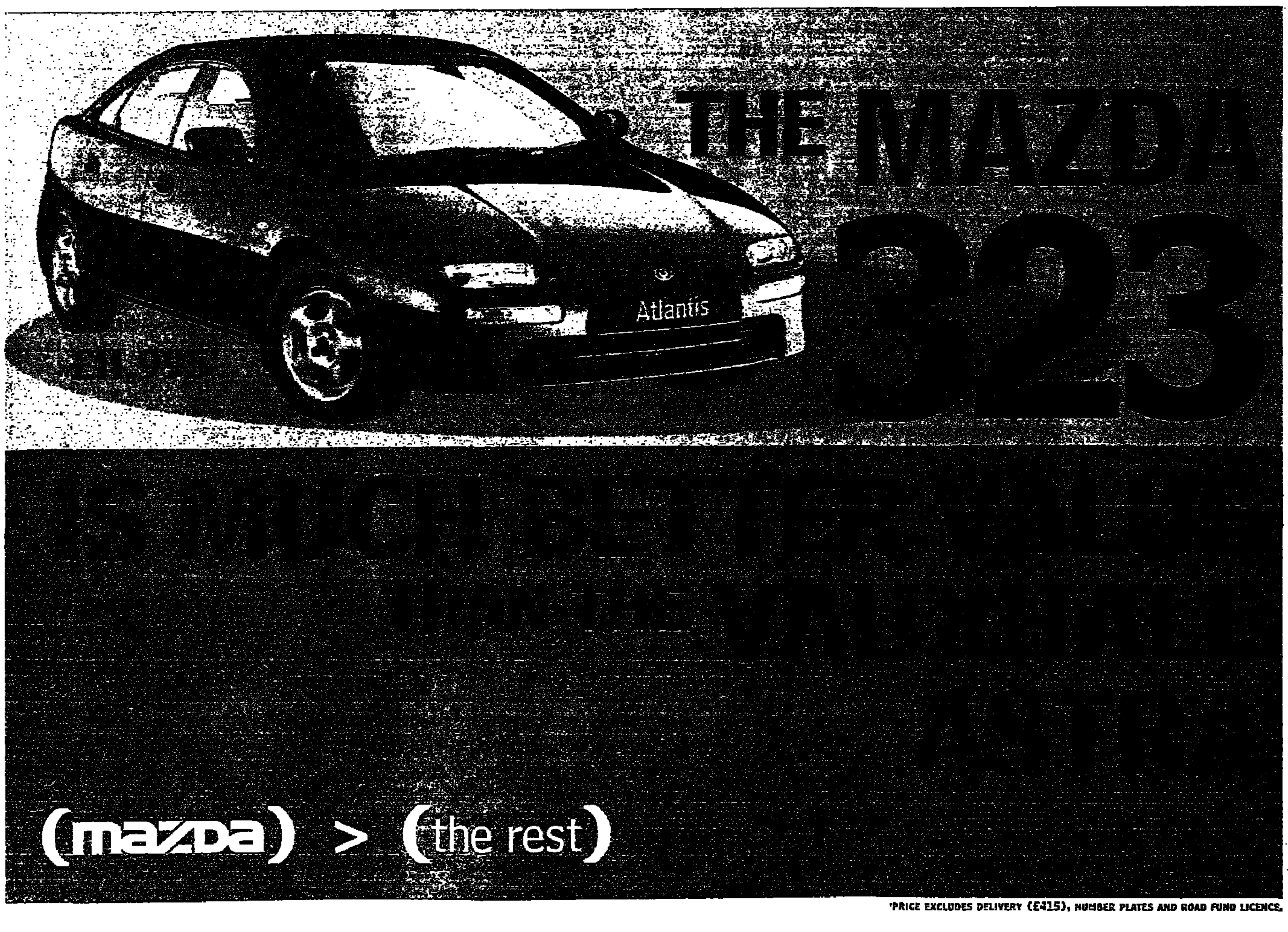
DENIS Thatcher had a good time, even if the Bishop of Coventry was distinctly shaken by his naked encounter with the motor industry, writes Kevin Eason. Centenary celebrations culminated in a dinner for 1,600 executives, celebrities and guests at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham.

In church, an 1897 Daimler-Benz

At table 107 was Sir Denis, a guest of the Quinton Hazell Group, happily enjoying a pageant of 100 years of motoring presented by John Humphrys of Radio 4's *Today*. Top of the bill was singer Michael Ball, who presumably came cheap as he is the son of Tony Ball of Tony Ball Associates, which organised the shindig.

Everyone who was a motoring someone was there, from Sir Michael Edwardes, saviour of the Rover Group, to Zhao Dadong, a member of a Chinese trade delegation studying the British motor industry. The delegation must have loved the presentation, which included the band of the Coldstream Guards, the pipes and drums of the Scots Guards, two Welsh male voice choirs and the Academy of Irish Dancing. Through it all, the Bishop, the Rt Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, remained stiff upper-lipped after a harassing day at the cathedral which went wrong the moment a nude lady decided to decorate the altar.

Executives at *Car 96* were anxious to discover something about the Bishop's interest in cars, including what he drove, only to meet a frosty response. His aide told us that he drives a car made in Coventry — which leaves a choice between a Peugeot 306 (price range £9,500-£14,000) or a Jaguar (£29,000-£60,000).



*PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY (£415), NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD FUND LICENCE.

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